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SPECTACULAR PEAKS AND LIMPID WATERS

SPLENDOURS OF THE WULINGYUAN SCENIC AREA

Peonies of Luoyang

—“The Best Under Heaven”

The Terra-Cotta Warriors and Horses

—The Eighth Wonder of the World

The Oriental Capital of Buddhas in Leshan, Sichuan

190

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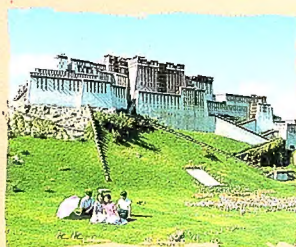
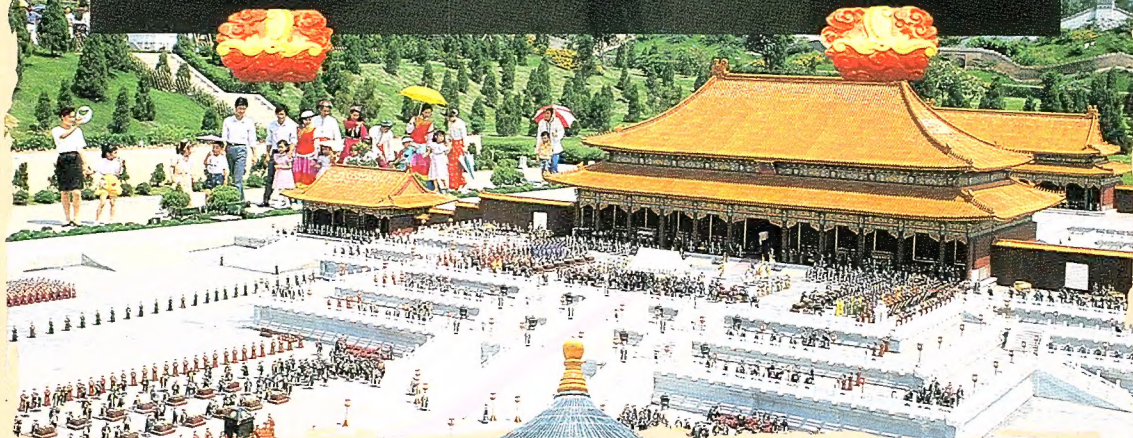
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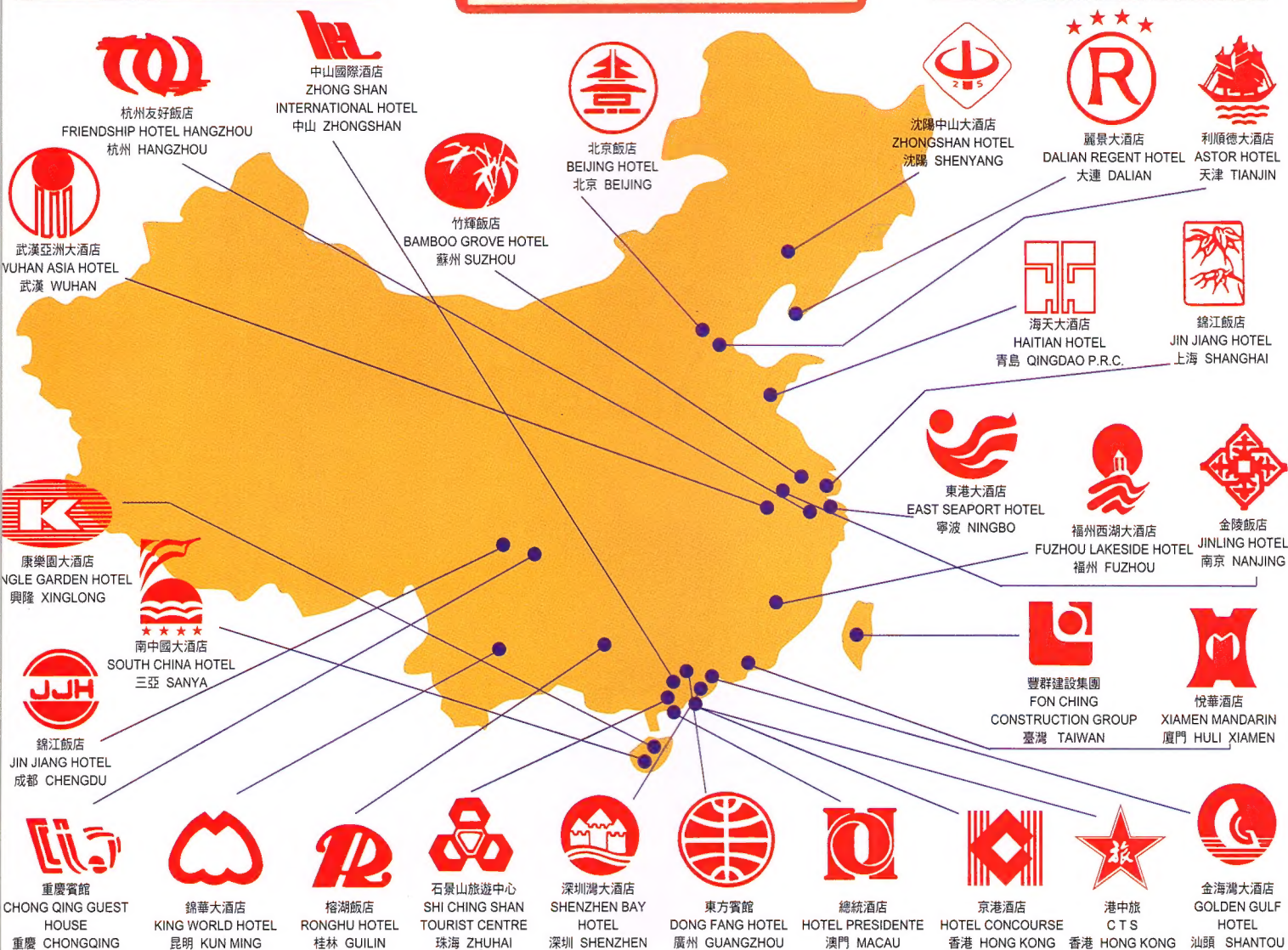
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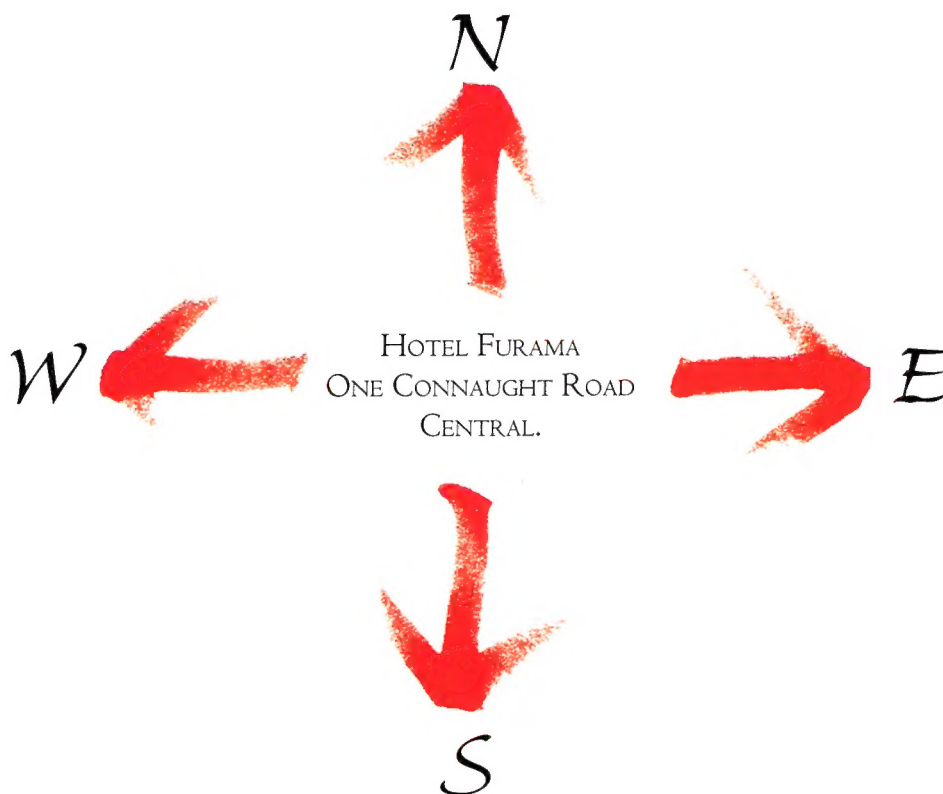
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VARIETY, THE SPICE OF LIFE

This month we take you from the captivating, to the awesome, to the ethereal.... We begin in Hunan Province, within the Wulingyuan Scenic Area lying in a region known familiarly as "Zhangjiajie". In fact, it is made up of the Suoxi Valley Scenic Area, Mount Tianzi Scenic Area and Zhangjiajie National Forest Park. Each area offers the traveller a variety of different landscapes, moods and wonders. For example, it is not difficult to see why Zhangjiajie has been listed under the United Nations' Environmental Protection Organization, when standing amidst its army of peaks, clear mountain streams and exotic flora and fauna. Then there is Huanglong in Suoxi Valley Scenic Area, a dazzling maze of colourful karst caves leading into huge caverns, plus the breathtaking beauty of Baofeng Lake, known as "water in the sky", set high in the mountains. In Mount Tianzi Scenic Area one should enter with a heightened imagination in order to fully enjoy the many *trompe l'oeils* and fables surrounding the numerous rock formations.

Without doubt the most impressive burial site known to the world is that of Qin Shihuang (259-210 B.C.) of the Qin Dynasty in Xi'an, Shaanxi Province. The massive project required 700,000 workers and took 36 years to complete. The result was to become the Eighth Wonder of the World — we give you a full guide to the breathtaking and awesome terra-cotta warriors of Xi'an.

Lastly, to Sichuan Province, to the Bay of Buddhas, where the once imposing and solitary Leshan Buddha now shares his empire with over 3,000 replicas from around the world — an amazing testament to the Enlightened One.



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C O N T E N T S



Spectacular Peaks and Limpid Waters — Splendours of the Wulingyuan Scenic Area

The 26,400-hectare area known collectively as Zhangjiajie in Hunan Province lay virtually undiscovered until the 1980's. Since then its popularity has increased but, still largely untravelled, it offers intoxicating scenery, virgin forests and heaps of charm.

TOURIST HIGHLIGHTS

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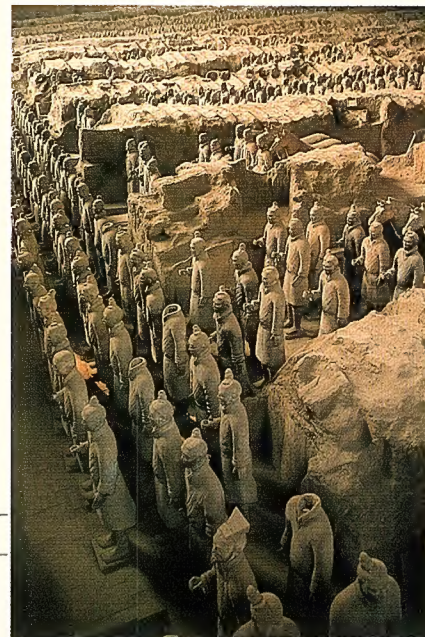
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The Oriental Capital of Buddhas — A New Sanctuary in Leshan

A bewildering array of over 3,000 Buddha replicas at the Bay of Great Buddhas in Leshan, Sichuan Province constitute one of the finest collections of Southeast Asian statues and carvings of the Enlightened One.

C O N T E N T S



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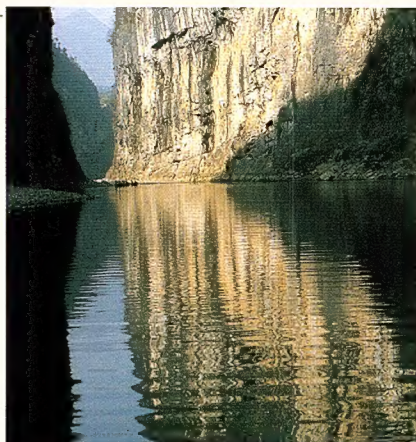


Paying Homage at the Yellow Emperor Mausoleum

For several thousand years emperors and men of letters have made sacrifices and paid homage to the mausoleum of Xuan Yuan, the Yellow Emperor. As creator of the 5,000-year-old Chinese culture he is worshipped worldwide by all Chinese.

The Terra-Cotta Warriors and Horses — The Eighth Wonder of the World

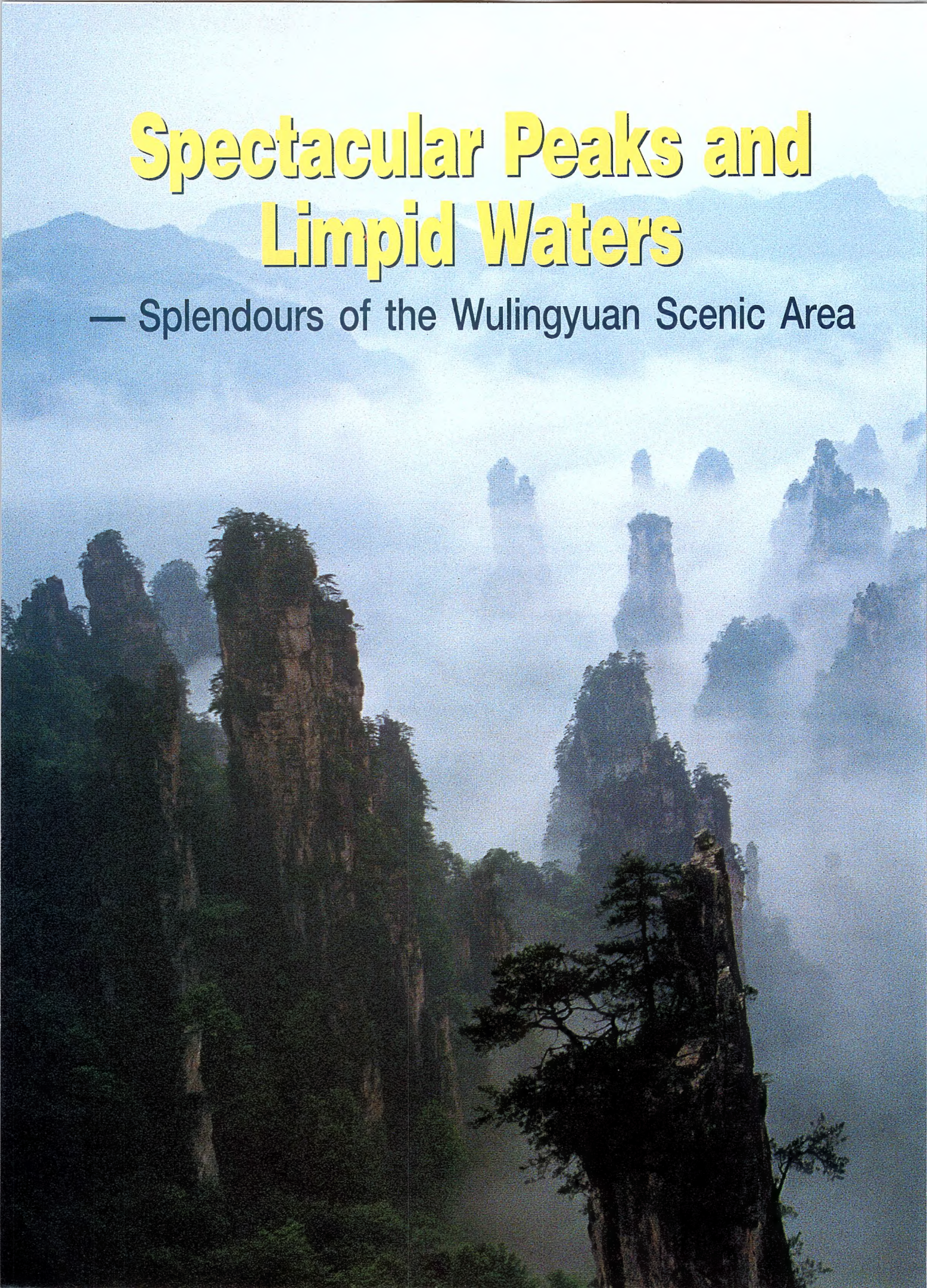
An in-depth report on the fascinating terra-cotta warriors and horses of Xi'an where over 6,000 staunch warriors stand in full battle array. Given the immensity of the construction and the intricate attention to detail paid to the carving of every warrior, horse and chariot, no wonder this is a wonder of the world.



Front Cover: The Maoyan River Valley in the city of Zhangjiajie (by Chan Yat Nin)

Spectacular Peaks and Limpid Waters

— Splendours of the Wulingyuan Scenic Area



The ever-changing sea of cloud on Mount Tianzi (by Cheng Guimin)



With a total area of 26,400 hectares, the picturesque Wulingyuan Scenic Area lies deep in the precipitous Wuling Mountains within the boundaries of Zhangjiajie City in the northwest part of Hunan Province. It encompasses the Zhangjiajie National Forest Park, the Suoxi Valley Scenic Area and the Mount Tianzi Scenic Area, as well as the neighbouring towns of Suoxiyu and Tianzishan and the townships of Zhonghu and part of Xiehe.

Previously in the late 1970s, people only knew of the Zhangjiajie National Forest Park. In the 1980s, the two neighbouring natural scenic areas — Mount Tianzi and Suoxi Valley — were founded. However, it is perhaps for reasons of familiarity that people still call this region “Zhangjiajie”.

Proximately 380 million years ago, the area was immersed under a vast sea. Movements of the earth's crust later produced a 50-metre layer of quartzite, thus the mountain range of Wuling was created. Through the ensuing millenniums weathering, corrosion and crumbling have brought into being Wulingyuan's unusual scenery of steep peaks and grotesque mountains.

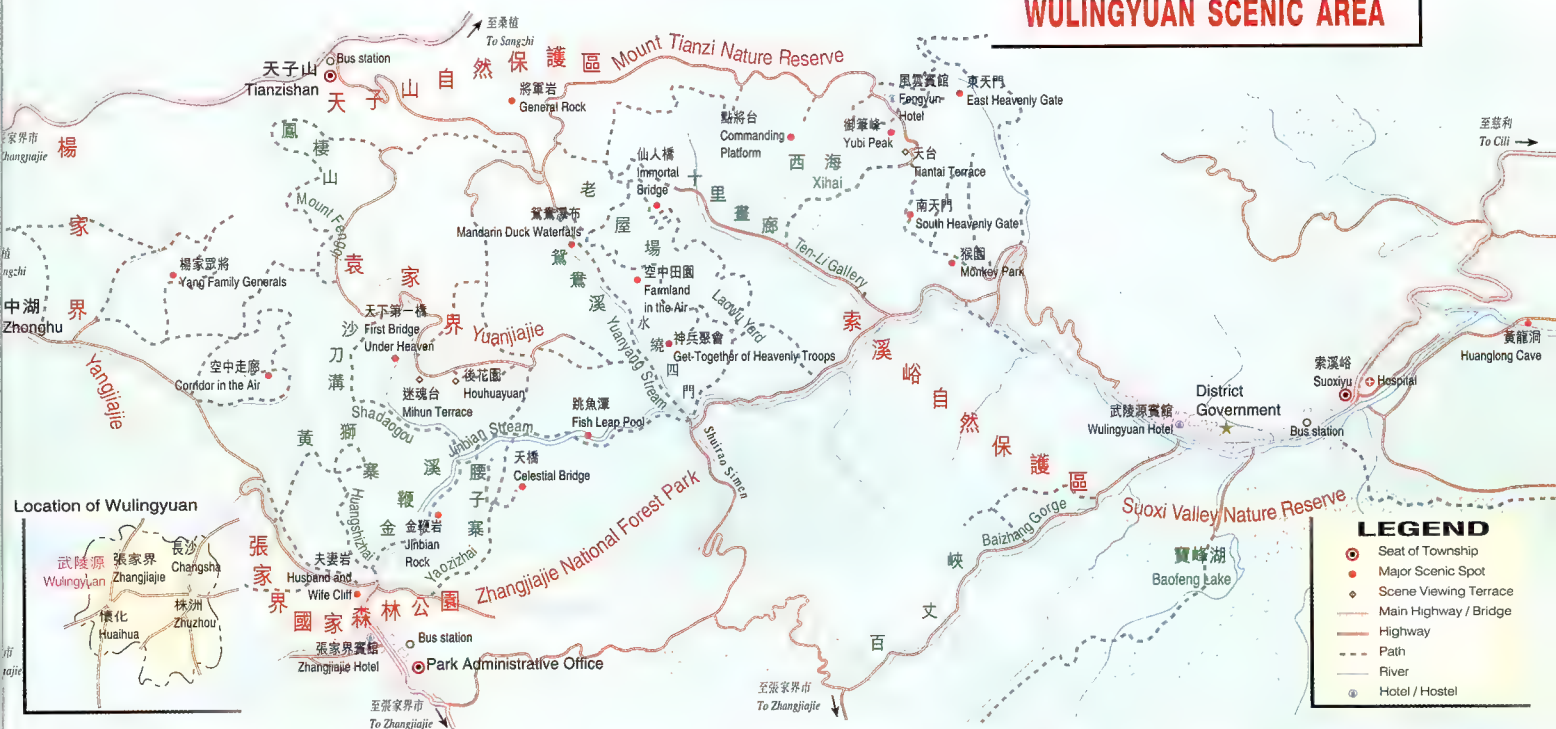
Zhangjiajie, Mount Tianzi and Suoxi Valley each has its own unique scenery. Mount Tianzi offers fantastic natural scenery — when one climbs to the top of the mountain, one is able to see grotesquely shaped peaks shooting up from the deep valleys; Suoxi Valley boasts the beauty of the Baofeng (Precious Peak) Lake; and Zhangjiajie is famous for its steep mountain peaks and the beautiful Jinbian Stream flowing at the foot of the mountain.



Photos by Xie Guanghui
Text by Jun Feng

1. The waterfall on Mount Tianzi becomes a wide stream as it flows to Suoxi Valley.
2. The rays of morning sun have dyed the peaks of Mount Tianzi gold.
3. Porters are a great help on the Mount Tianzi tour.

WULINGYUAN SCENIC AREA



Suoxi Valley Scenic Area

山景雖然比不上天子山，但索溪峪的地貌卻更加豐富多樣，令人著迷

Approaching the end of the Jinbian Stream, the mountain valley widens and the water current becomes swifter, giving the landscape a more imposing grandeur. We had arrived at the Suoxi Valley.

Covering an area of more than 6,000 hectares, the Suoxi Valley Scenic Area can in no way compare with the mountain scenes of Mount Tianzi. Yet, it offers a richer and more varied topography comprising six streams and 19 gullies and several dozen scenic points which fan out along the Suoxi Stream, a tributary of Loushui River. There are also the ever changing and colourful Huanglong (Yellow Dragon) Cave, the Baizhang Gorge which is famous for its high mountain peaks and deep valleys, the Baofeng Lake on top of the mountain, as well as the Xihai and the "Ten-Li Gallery" which the Suoxi Valley Scenic Area shares with the Mount Tianzi Scenic Area.

1. *Sitting in a litter seems a very comfortable way to climb the mountain (by Xie Guanghui).*
2. *A real challenge awaits every tourist to Mount Tianzi (by Xie Guanghui).*
3. *The magnificent South Heavenly Gate leading to Mount Tianzi (by Chan Yat Nin)*
4. *Towering peaks of Baizhang Gorge viewed from Suoxi Valley (by Chan Yat Nin)*



HUANGLONG CAVE — THE UNDERGROUND LABYRINTH

Situated on the north bank of the Suoxi Stream, the 15-kilometre-long Huanglong Cave covers an area of more than 20 hectares. The entrance is shrouded in mist, giving it and



its neighbouring mountains a mysterious, sacred atmosphere.

Inside the cave there are dazzling coloured lights and a small serpentine road leads to numerous stalagmites, stalactites, stone walls and stone corridors. Even when it is very hot outside, the cave remains cool and comfortable. Some distance forward spectacular halls appear containing underground rivers, along which are groups of stone forests with formations resembling stone zithers, jade carvings, heavy stone curtains, as well as marble ornamental columns, sharp stone needles and magnificent pagodas.... When we reached a large spiral hall, we were awe-struck. The hall stands as high as 100 metres and is large enough to accommodate 10,000 people. This was the first time I had come across such a grand underground labyrinth!

PECULIAR BAIZHANG GORGE

Baizhang Gorge is only 2.5 kilometres from Jundiping, at the centre of the Suoxi Valley Scenic Area. Soaring some 100 metres into the sky, both cliff faces are as precipitous as if being cut by an axe.

With names like "Horse Tying Pole", "Flag Peak", "Fire Exchanging Bridge", "Grindstone" and "Unicorn Cliff" for the many rock formations the Baizhang Gorge would appear to be an ancient battlefield. In fact, all these spectacularly shaped images are cut by the "hand" of nature.

WATER IN THE SKY

Moving on to the intoxicating landscape of Baofeng Lake, a small man-made lake set high in the mountains. Looking up, it seems to float in the sky, hence its name of "Water in the Sky."

One has to climb 331 steps up a staircase carved out from the mountain cliff face. From the top of the dam, the water below appeared to be very deep. In winter when the water level becomes low, it is said a small rock island rises from the water, looking like a well-constructed building set amidst green mountains and limpid water. It usually creates the illusion of a "mirage". But, our visit took place in late summer to early autumn, and so the scene was naturally different. The lake was full, the mountain peak in the lake was just 20 centimetres above the water surface, it looked like an old turtle floating in the water with its head tilted to the sky, hence the name "Golden Turtle Coming Out of the Water". Due to some ripples on the water the "golden turtle" appeared to bob up and down. At such a time, it is impossible to think that one could ever have enough of the moving scenery created by mountains and water!



Translated by Li Zhenguo
Article by Jun Feng



Mount Tianzi — A Highland Among Mountain Peaks

「一步難行」可以一步跨過，但腳下就是萬丈深谷，就看你夠不夠膽了！

It is said that Mount Tianzi is the incarnation of a goddess who had descended from heaven surrounded by clouds and mists. It stands in the centre of the “Mountain Peak Forest” highlands, magnificent yet perilous, grotesque but beautiful, tranquil and wild all at the same time. Its scenes change with the seasons, weather and during different times of the day. Being the highest point in Wulingyuan, one can enjoy wonderful views of expansive landscapes to its south, east and west.

A two-day tour is merely enough to cover Mount Tianzi. One may visit Chapan (Tea Plate) Pagoda and Laowu (Old House) Yard scenic areas on the first day, lodging at the Tianzi Mountain Villa overnight. The next day we suggest a visit to the Shijiayan (Stone Family Eaves) Scenic Area staying overnight at either the Lanyuan Mountain Villa or Fengyun Guest House returning home in the morning of the third day.

ORIGINS OF MOUNT TIANZI

Mount Tianzi originally included Zhangjiajie on the other side of the Great Valley and was called Mount Qingyan. In 1385 during the Ming Dynasty, the Chieftain Xiang Dakun of the Tujia nationality declared himself as “King Xiang, the Heavenly Son” and led troops in revolt against the Ming Empire. He later retreated to Mount Qingyan and killed himself after being defeated in his last battle. It was said that the numerous peaks around the area are the incarnations of his dead generals and soldiers who, following the lead of their chieftain, threw themselves into the Shentang (Holy Hall) Bay. In commemoration, the Tujia people called the mountain north of Shentang Bay “Mount Tianzi (Heavenly Son)”, and the places where he lived or visited were all named “Tianzi”, such as Tianzi Peak, Tianzi Temple, Tianzi Cave, Tianzi Islet and Tianzi Weir.

Tea Plate Pagoda Scenic Area is located below the Tianzi Mountain Villa half way up Houzi (Monkey) Slope. In Shuanghe Cave, there is a pillar known as Broken Stone Pillar to which a legend is attached. King Xiang, had a younger sister who lived in this cave. She was very skilled in the martial arts, poetry and calligraphy. King Xiang looked everywhere to find a husband

for his sister and finally he found a young man named Chen Qiang who was a martial arts street performer. As the legend goes, the girl would agree to marry him only if he could break a stone pillar which stood inside the cave. Chen Qiang accepted the challenge and pushing it with both hands the stone pillar broke into two.

There is another spot in this scenic area in a valley romantically called “Dating Lovers”. It is a lovely peak naturally broken into two parts. The lower part looks like a Tujia girl, and the higher part a Tujia boy.

The most dangerous place in the area is the “Difficult One-Step” to be found about 100 metres down a small path from Xianrenqiao Hostel. The crustal movements over the past thousands years have broken the rock stratum. Between two huge rocks there is a crack, 15 metres long and one metre wide. People find it easy to cross the crack with only one stride provided they do not look down! But if they do



look down panic sets in and they dare not move their legs. Below lies a bottomless valley with mists floating around the rocks.

It is said that Xiang Wang Heavenly Son once tested his sword here, hence its creation.

There are many other fascinating scenes such as Celestial Bridge, Heavenly Son Temple, Prince Cave, Sea Snail Peak, Two-in-One Cave, Tonque Rock, Heavenly Son Peak, Heavenly Son Seat, Twin Guardian Swords and Otter Driving Golden Tortoise.



1. Tourists enjoy taking photos standing in front of the mountain peaks (by Xie Guanghui).
2. A photo taken with one of the monkeys is a favourite of tourists (by Tai Chi Yin).
3. Mount Tianzi is "king" among the numerous mountain peaks (by Chan Yat Nin).

STORIES OF THE HEAVENLY SON EVERYWHERE

After visiting the Tea Plate Pagoda Scenic Area, it is possible to visit the Old House Yard Scenic Area to the south of Mount Tianzi where a scenic blend of mountains, rivers and farmlands offers a different outlook.

About 500 metres to the east of the Prince Cave lies a huge grotesquely-shaped grey rock which looks like a stone block for martial art exercises. At its centre is a hole inside which is





2



3

神堂灣根本無路可進，最怪的是不論何時都會從灣內隱約傳出一陣陣鳴鑼擊鼓、人喊馬嘶之聲……

a key-shaped stone. I touched it with my finger and the small stone could rotate but could not be removed. This is called the Celestial Lock by the local people.

This area is the kingdom of the Heavenly Son, even the deep valley in the southeastern part of this scenic area is called "The Get-Together of Heavenly Troops". More than 30 peaks of varying size rise up from the valley, and the largest stone is believed to be the Heavenly Son himself. To his east are three "soldiers", and below him three "generals" stand with their backs to each other. To his south is a wiseman in scholars' dress, and to his west is a "great general" holding fast his sword. Other "generals and soldiers" quietly look at the Heavenly Son....

It is possible, with imagination, to guess what other scenes look like with names such as "Farmland in the Air", "Sisters Going to a Fair" and "Loving Couples in the War"....



1. The Mandarin-Duck villas on Mount Tianzi attract many young couples (by Chan Yat Nin).
2. The stone-arch bridge is another creation of nature (by Xie Guanghui).
3. Yubi (Imperial Pen) Peak resembles a giant pen (by (by Lu Suibin)
4. It is possible to eat crab on the mountain (by Tai Chi Yin).
5. The mushroom-shaped road sign matches the mountain setting (by Chan Yat Nin).

HOLY HALL BAY HEAVENLY STAIRS

Early the next morning we set off towards the Shijiayan Scenic Area to the east of Mount Tianzi, close to the Suoxi Valley. The Shentang Bay is a mysterious kingdom as well as a green maze. There is no road leading directly into the valley, only a perilous flight of Heavenly Stairs. The nine flights of stairs are very narrow and each step can hold only one foot. The local saying is that "With each step higher up the Heavenly Stairs, the more scared the climber feels." At the centre of the valley lies a dark green, bottomless pool. Throughout each season, cold winds rise from the valley, rain falls frequently and mist floats around. At any time, sounds resembling the beating of gongs and drums and the noises of men and horses can be heard from

the bay. Nobody could explain the source of the mysterious sounds.

On our departure, I took one last look at the mountain; wondering what the "Fairy Scattering Flowers" scene would be I turned to see the whole mountain covered with green trees and scattered with flowers. And the numerous rising peaks in different shapes were probably the touch of the "Imperial Pen Peak"....



Translated by M. Q.
Article by Jun Feng

Scenery of Zhangjiajie — A Bright Pearl

在燈火反襯下，綽約的巖峰越發顯得幽暗，像是一幀水意森森的水墨巨卷

Zhangjiajie is China's first national forest park and is also one of the first to join the United Nations' list of world natural heritage scenic spots. Situated 32 kilometres away from Zhangjiajie City, at the juncture of Sangzhi and Cili counties in northwest Hunan Province, it covers a total area of 13,300 hectares. Spectacular peaks towering into the clouds cover the area, strangely-shaped rocks shoot skywards creating deep, precipitous ravines and clear mountain streams thread the terrain. Numerous exotic flowers and herbs have been found here and rare animals and birds roam the forests giving it a primitive natural feel. Zhangjiajie was only introduced to the outside world over a dozen years ago and today it holds great appeal to throngs of visitors offering some 100 scenic points, divided into five scenic zones: Huangshi Village, Jinbian Stream, Yaozi Village, Shaodao Gully and Pibaxi. We went to the Pibaxi Scenic Area and stayed at the Pibaxi Hotel.

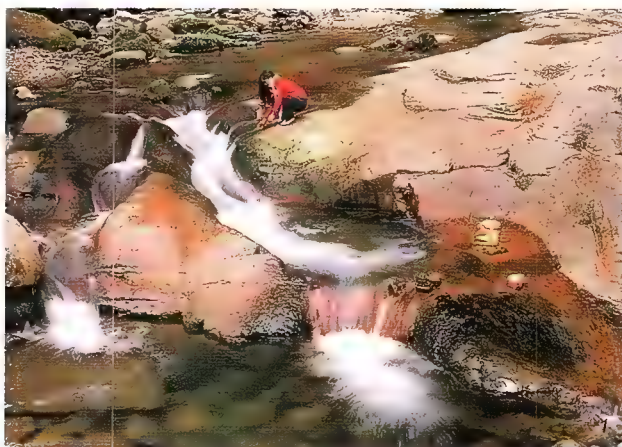
ROMANTIC SCENES

Huangshi Village lies four kilometres away from Pibaxi. We walked down through the village along the Kamen Gate. You will find many of the scenic spots at Zhangjiajie carry a romantic theme being named after the topic of the love between man and

woman: "Coming from Afar to Meet One's Beloved" by the Jinbian Stream; "Mandarin Duck Waterfall" on the upper reaches of the Kuangdong Stream; the Shuanghe (Mating) Cave, "Lovers' Rendezvous", "Husband Watching Peak" and "Husband and Wife Cliff" on Mount Tianzi.

The "Husband Watching Peak" has a unique feature: When one first sees the peak from afar, it resembles a lovely young lady; moving closer and with a different viewing angle, the image changes into a middle-aged woman; still closer, it takes on the image of an old lady who has suffered many hardships — endlessly waiting, life has passed her by, her black hair has turned white and her body is transformed into solid rock. Time has passed but it has failed to change her love.... Watching the scene, one cannot fail to be moved!

Walking on past the Forest Farm Guesthouse, several hundred metres ahead lies the "Husband and Wife Cliff", one of the three most exotic scenes at Zhangjiajie. Here, two huge peaks stand opposite each other — one is the very image of a man and the other a woman — they stand looking at each other affectionately, even the beard and hair are distinguishable. Anybody who has seen it would acclaim it to be perfection itself. Many tourists have visited the "Husband and Wife Cliff"



1. The zigzagging Jinbian Stream (by Chan Yat Nin)

2. The narrow gap to the former bandits' lair allows passage for only one person at a time.

3. Litters are for hire at the foot of Zhangjiajie.

4. The Observation Platform at Zhangjiajie — an ideal spot from which to enjoy the landscape (by Chan Yat Nin)





in couples believing it to contain some magic — they make their wish here and even pay homage to the cliff, hoping that their own marriage will be happy. It is said that some couples who have quarrelled in the past have become affectionate towards each other; and others whose relationships were good show even more mutual love; even those who have decided to divorce are reunited after paying a visit to the cliff.

ANCIENT FOREST

Having rested after lunch at the Pibaxi Hotel, we then went on to the Jinbian Stream area tour.

The Jinbian Stream originates at Tudiya and zigzags for eight kilometres among steep peaks. With constantly changing scenery it now and then leaves the wild mountain valleys through tracts of green grassland or white sand, or is being squeezed by mountains cliffs. The stream is not only lined by famous scenic spots such as “The Jinbian Cliff”, “Cutting Open the Mountain to Save the Mother” and the “Wenxing Cliff”, but there are also primitive forests offering a paradise for wild animals and birds.

The ladies in our group liked to play in the water and one of them was the first to discover the lobster flowers hidden in the tree groves by the brook. Lobster flowers have not yet been



溪畔灌木叢中的龍蝦花，在花落籽熟季節，只需輕輕一觸，殼兒便炸了，籽兒便飛走了……

found anywhere else in the world and are therefore unique to Zhangjiajie. Their flowers are red, amber yellow or grape-purple in colour, and are shaped exactly like lobsters suspended from green twigs as thin as hair. They sway in the breeze, like real lobsters swimming and darting in water. What is most interesting is that once the flower seeds are ripe, the slightest touch makes the shell explode open and the seeds are set free.

Zhangjiajie is also home to a rare bird — the Water Fetching Pheasant, whose common scientific name is crimson-bellied tragopan. Its plumage is bright yellow and very elegant. Under its neck is a water bag which can hold about 0.5 kilogram of water, enough for four to five days. Having used up all the water, it will go down to the stream to fetch more! The Water Fetching Pheasant has a mild disposition, but it is very difficult to tame.

Some people have tried to raise them in cages but no matter how well they were looked after, the birds would refuse to eat or drink and therefore starve themselves to death.

Apart from these, the forest is always alive with chattering monkeys jumping along the cliffs and among the trees....

Translated by Huang Youyi

Photos by Xie Guanghui

Article by Luo Changjiang

1. The iron ladder climb to the top of the peak is breathtaking.
2. As a State-level forest park, Zhangjiajie naturally has rich vegetation.





A Tourist Guide to Wulingyuan Scenic Area

Among the numerous State-level scenic areas China has to offer, Wulingyuan in northern Hunan is comparatively young having also recently been added to the World Heritage list by the United Nations Natural Environment Protection Organization. Since the recent completion of a new airport it is good to use Zhangjiajie City as a base with flights to the city from Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Changsha. The peak tourist period is between May and October when there is a one-hour flight every day from Changsha and once every two days during the low season. Several passenger trains also pass through the city and dozens of long-distance buses and tourist coaches arrive from Changsha every day. The journey takes about 12 hours. Buses to Zhangjiajie National Forest Park and Suoxi Valley Scenic Area are available at 10 yuan from Zhangjiajie City (formerly called Dayong), but departure times are irregular as buses set off when it is full, and it can be flagged down en route.

The Wulingyuan Scenic Area is mainly composed of Suoxi Valley, Mount Tianzi and Zhangjiajie.

Each area has something different to offer: Zhangjiajie is well known to the outside world, Mount Tianzi for its scenery and Suoxi Valley for its people.

A journey of an hour or more from Zhangjiajie takes you to Suoxi Valley where Huanglong (Yellow Dragon) Cave and Baofeng (Precious Peak) Lake are the two main tourist attractions. The former is a large underground karst cave with strangely-shaped stalactites lit up by colourful lights while the unique artificial Baofeng Lake sits elegantly on top of a mountain. Being the seat of the local government, Suoxi has hotels and restaurants open to overseas visitors with hotel room rates ranging between 100 and 200 yuan.

From Suoxi Valley two routes lead to Mount Tianzi: one direct, the other via Shuirao Simen (Water Surrounding Four Gates) and Shili Hualang (Ten-Li Gallery). Most visitors prefer the first route. Be warned, the climb up the mountain is rather tiring so bring along as few daily necessities as possible, or hire one of the porters who charge 10-20 yuan for each piece of luggage according to the size and weight. Litters are available




at a cost of 150 yuan per trip. Veteran guides charge 70 yuan per day and usually help to carry some of your luggage. However, choose a licensed guide carefully and contact the local travel bureau if any problems arise. Tips are discretionary.

In Mount Tianzi Scenic Area there are several dozen scenic spots, the most popular being He Long Park and Bijia (Pen Holder) Peak. Accommodation on the mountain includes Tianzishan Hotel and Tianzi Mountain Villa, room rates are about 150 yuan. For food, stir-fried Yan'er (rock fungus) with pork is a popular local dish which is available at any local restaurant at the cost of 20-30 yuan. Yan'er is a rare edible fungus with a high nutritional value.

To descend Mount Tianzi, take the route passing Shili Hualang and Shuirao Simen along the Jinbian Stream to Zhangjiajie National Forest Park. This route has quite a few scenic spots and is wonderfully cool in summer.

Huangshizhai is another mountain with similar scenery to Mount Tianzi, but the location of its scenic spots are more concentrated. Compared with Mount Tianzi the climb to Huangshizhai from Zhangjiajie is easier. Both private and State-

run hotels can be found at the foot of the mountain.

An admission fee of 45 yuan covers the whole area of Wulingyuan National Scenic Area including Suoxi Valley, Mount Tianzi and Zhangjiajie so don't go out of the scenic area during your visit unless you want to incur another admission fee. Buses to the city centre of Zhangjiajie are available at a fare of 10 yuan. Though not a big city, the newly built Zhangjiajie has well-appointed tourist facilities. One can take a train from here to the Mengdong River for a river drifting, then continue southward to the ancient town of Fenghuang. This route encompasses a mixture of landscape, ancient towns and local customs. 

Translated by K.V. Ku
Text by Xie Guanghui

1. A room decorated in Tujia style

2. Tianzishan Guest House is the only hotel for foreign tourists.

Fenghuang



— A Mountain Town in Western Hunan

TOURIST HIGHLIGHTS — FENGHUANG ANCIENT TOWN

Splendidly attired Miao women embroider before a latticed window of Chaoyang Palace.

After descending from the famous Zhangjiajie National Forest Park, I immediately got on board a bus bound for Fenghuang in western Hunan. The bus drove monotonously for half a day along the Hunan-Guizhou Highway. Suddenly some of the passengers became lively; I looked out of the window and saw the clear Tuojiang River running across the middle of a basin surrounded by green mountains. On the river bank was a long city wall with ancient city towers; the outline of the ancient town of Fenghuang was already in sight.

TWO REMAINING GATE TOWERS

The county town of Fenghuang is not large but around the bus station are newly-built department stores, hotels, restaurants, and ballrooms pasted with colourful pictures of Hong Kong and Taiwanese film stars and famous singers. This part of the town is called Xinjie (New Street).

Walking out from the Nanhua Road, one comes to the beautiful side of the Tuojiang River where the old face of the

ancient town is very evident. The narrow but extremely clean Dongzheng Street, Beibian Street and Nanbian Street are paved with slabstones and flanked by antique houses constructed of timber. The rows of wooden houses have painted designs on the fire brick walls and turtles' heads on top of the walls. On the ground floors are snack bars from which the delicate fragrance of frying glutinous rice cakes wafts out. Some of them are tailor's shops, where old dressmakers, wearing presbyopic glasses, are usually busy cutting out garments from pieces of cloth using scissors and rulers.

Several streams run through the old town and women can usually be seen squatting in rows by the streams washing and pounding their clothes with wooden clubs....

In the past Fenghuang was known as a place inhabited by "barbarian Miaos". For several dynasties it was considered too far away for the central court to exercise its administration and so for military purposes, and also in an effort to suppress the ethnic people in western Hunan, the Qing court first established





古城還保留了兩座城門樓，一座是只剩下

樓門的東門，一座是比較完好

的北門。北門城樓底下的門洞寬闊，

可以擋風遮雨，到了

晚上，書販在這裡拉起電燈，擺攤賣書……

1. The ancient Fenghuang county town
2. Local people catch eels with specially-made bamboo traps.
3. Colourful paintings on the ceiling of the ancient tower-like stage in Chaoyang Palace
4. A gate tower of Fenghuang still stands intact.

the Fenghuang Department (a military organization) and then set up a prefectural yamen, a township yamen and stationed a large force of troops. The prefectural yamen office building still stands in good condition today. Its large compound surrounded by high walls and many embrasures above its main gate make it look like an ancient military fortress.

Inside the town, two old gate

towers still remain: one is called the East Gate Tower (only the gate remains), and the other is the fairly well-preserved North Gate Tower built with purplish red sandstones. In the latter are relief sculptures of figures from the classical novel *Romance of the Three Kingdoms* like Guan Yu and Zhang Fei, together with stone carvings of unicorn and phoenix. Apart from its historical value, the tower also offers a good view. From the top the whole town can be seen to the south, and the beautiful scenery of the Tuojiang River to the north.

The wide doorway of the North Gate can shelter people from the rain and wind, and as evening sets in, book peddlers set up stands to sell their wares by lamp light, adding a cultural atmosphere to the ancient mountain town.





“ART GALLERY” IN THE WATER

Walking out of the East Gate you come to the Rainbow Bridge. It is a typical four-arch Wind-and-Rain Bridge popular in the past in the regions between Guizhou and western Hunan. The pointed roof and upturned eaves of the bridge tower, set against the blue sky, produce an enchanting picture. It is said that the bridge used to be a very busy place with houses and shops as well as many small peddlers selling various wares. Later, a highway was built and the road needed to be widened, so sadly the buildings on the bridge, which had a strong national style, were all demolished.

Viewing Fenghuang county town from Rainbow Bridge, one can see a forest of luxuriant trees on the left, the ancient trees therein entwined with ivy. On the right-hand side are the East Gate Tower and North Gate Tower rising high above the rows of rooftops and clouds of mist. It creates a magnificent picture. Along the river bank is a long row of stilt houses projecting over the water, their window-panes glistening in the sunlight. On some of the window-sills are pots of flowers, while others have washing hung out to dry.... All this is reflected in the clear water of the river appearing as if there are two “art galleries” one above the water, the other in the water. In the morning, when a thin veil of mist rises up from the river, it feels as though one were part of an elegant painting. No wonder, many young students come here to sketch from time to time.

THE LONGEVITY PALACE — THE MOST TYPICAL PLACE IN FENGHUANG

I walked along the narrow river along the flagstone road, knocked at a door of a stilt house and was invited in. The host was a retired factory worker. The projected part of the house was built with wooden boards and windows lined the side facing the river. It was very bright, clean and tidy, and the air was very fresh. In one corner a simple wooden staircase led down to the river making it very convenient for the host to wash their vegetables and clothes.

On a bend in the river below the bridge is a palace called Wanshou (Longevity) Palace built during the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). Surrounded by trees its halls lie in several rows together with an octagonal tower with pointed upturned eaves and a small white pagoda. The whole ensemble is reflected in the water. Standing here, one can see to the right the reflection of the four-arch Rainbow Bridge, which looks like four full moons. The houses on the opposite side, together with the flowing river, offer radiance and beauty to each other. Reflections of mountains and rivers, towers and pavilions; blue sky, white clouds, green trees and houses all sway with the water. This is a scene very typical of Fenghuang.

THE FORMER RESIDENCE OF SHEN CONGWEN

Although Fenghuang is a small county town, it has nevertheless produced two prominent figures in our time: one is the celebrated writer Shen Congwen and the other the famous artist Huang Yongyu. Shen Congwen's former residence is at No. 24,

Zhongying Street in the southern part of the town. Its quadrangle has a small yard paved with grey slabstones at the centre, two studies to the right and left; the central room and sitting room at the front with three main rooms at the back. The doors and windows are panelled or engraved with latticework, but with the passage of time the patterns have become indistinct.

This residence was bought by Shen Congwen's father. Many stories about Shen Congwen's childhood and youth are closely connected with this courtyard. Displayed here are the desk and rattan chair Shen Congwen used when he was alive as well as several dozen personal articles. All these things were brought



1. This antique quadrangle is the location of the Border Town Poetry Society.

2. Washing vegetables in the Tuojiang River in early morning

3. Miao women's silver adornments made using traditional craftsmanship

4. The doorway of the ancient North Gate Tower is a good venue for reading and chess playing.

晚上一群小學生在河漫灘上點亮

蠟燭，把一艘艘小紙船放在水面，紙船隨着

水流漂去。原來，這天

是沈從文先生的九周年忌日……

here from Beijing by his wife Zhang Zhaohe after he died. At the gate of the residence a book counter sells some cultural and historical information about Fenghuang County as well as books and pamphlets on the study of Shen Congwen compiled and published by the Cultural and Historical Data Research Office of Fenghuang County.

Shen Congwen's ashes were buried on a small hill by the Tuojiang River, but no grave was ever built. Only a huge rock serves as a tombstone with the words "Shen Congwen's Tomb" written on it. Without an epitaph, the tomb is simple and unique.



In the evening I left through the North Gate to walk along the Tuojiang River in the moonlight. The women washing their laundry were all gone. It was very quiet, all I could hear was the gentle sounds of the river. On the opposite bank, a few school children from the Wenchangge Primary School skipped across the river by the stepping stones, holding some small paper boats they had made. They lit the candles on the sandy beach, placed the small paper boats on the river and watched them drift downstream to the Fenghuang Bridge. It happened to be the ninth anniversary of Shen Congwen's death and so the children who came from the same town and school purposely came to the river on this day to set off the paper boats to commemorate the great writer.

Although I stayed only a few days the small Fenghuang county town left me with a deep impression. Engraved on my heart are its mountains, rivers, its buildings both old and new, its people and their folk customs; they are all there and they will never fade away....

Translated by Xiong Zhenru
Photos & Article by Xie Guanghui



旅遊



Fenghuang is one of the most westerly county towns of Hunan adjacent to Guizhou Province. With a simple life, surrounded by mountains and rivers, the town has many scenic spots such as an ancient tower over the North Gate, Wenchang and Xiachang pavilions, Longevity Palace, Huangxiqiao Ancient City, Qiliang Cave and the Former Residence of Shen Congwen.

To visit Fenghuang, one can travel by No. 301/304 train from Guangzhou to Huaihua. The journey takes 25 hours, then change to a bus heading directly to the town. Alternatively, visit Wulingyuan Scenic Area and then board a train at Zhangjiajie bound for Jishou, then change to a bus heading for the town.

The coldest temperature in the county is 4.5°C in January, while the hottest is 27°C in July. Hotels are available in Tuojiang Town.

1. Today Shen Congwen's sister-in-law still lives in his former residence.
2. Stilt houses are primitively simple both inside and out.
3. Children love to swim in the Tuojiang River.
4. School children from the Wenchangge Primary School preparing to set off paper boats on the Tuojiang River, commemorating the ninth anniversary of Shen Congwen's death





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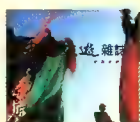
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Peonies — “The Best Under Heaven” of Luoyang

中國種植牡丹已有1,500多年歷史，

據說它原產於西北山區，花小色單，經人工培植，

後來才發展成為花中珍品





"The peonies of Luoyang are the best under heaven." Although this line of poetry has become a household name, one cannot really appreciate how true it is unless one has experienced the annual Peony Festival in the city of Luoyang, Henan Province.

PEONIES IN THE ROYAL CITY PARK

When I brought myself to Luoyang, four days before the official start of the Peony Festival, held annually from April 15 to 25, I found the whole city already in a festive mood. Decorative lanterns

and festoons were draped everywhere, even the shop fronts had been freshly re-painted. As the weather was dry and warm this spring, the peonies were in bloom earlier than usual, some varieties as early as ten days ahead of time.

I was told that the best and most representative peonies in Luoyang were to be found in the Wangcheng (Royal City) Park located on the former site of the city of the Sui and Tang dynasties at the centre of the city. As I headed for the park the following morning, I found the peonies along the streets already in full bloom, forming a beautiful ribbon on either side.

No wonder the park had such a good reputation for its peony flowers with close to 30,000 plants of more than 300 varieties. The peony beds in the Front Park were already in full bloom displaying a huge variety of large, bright flowers. The mature sturdy plants could put out as many as several dozen, or even 200-300 flowers. As I wandered around the garden, my eyes were dazzled by the riot of red, purple, pink and white flowers. The Rear Park presented a different scene. The flower beds here were divided into three sections. The peonies to the left were a uniform bright red, those in the middle were planted in rows of different colours and to the right was a section reserved for new varieties, totalling more than 100 newly cultivated varieties all vying with one another for supreme beauty.

THE QUEEN OF FLOWERS

The peony has been cultivated in China for more than 1,500 years. It is

said that it was originally a wild plant with small, drab flowers growing in the mountainous northwest regions of China.

A legend says that the peony was once native to Chang'an (present-day Xi'an). One day, Wu Zetian (624-705), the empress of the Tang Dynasty, ordered the peonies in Chang'an to bloom that night instead of waiting for the fresh breeze the following morning. When the peonies failed to bloom as ordered, the empress issued a decree, banishing them to Luoyang, the eastern capital. However, once in Luoyang the peonies bloomed more resplendently than ever before. Upon hearing this, Wu Zetian flew into a rage and ordered that all the peonies be burned to ashes. The following spring, the plants put forth new shoots and produced even larger and more magnificent flowers. From then on, the peony established its roots in Luoyang and became a symbol for defying force and disdaining honour and glory. The bright red peonies I saw in Luoyang are said to be the offspring of the "Luoyang Red" that had been banished by Empress Wu Zetian. It has become the city's most famous and most popular variety.

1. White peony in Goose Peony Park
2. A peony flower girl at a busy market
3. Many artists specializing in peony paintings sell their works during the Peony Festival.
4. The decorative lights of Luoyang's Mudan Hotel.
5. Photographs of peonies are displayed in the streets of Luoyang.





傳說最普遍的

名品「洛陽紅」，是當年

曾經因為觸怒

武則天而被下令放火

焚燒的一種

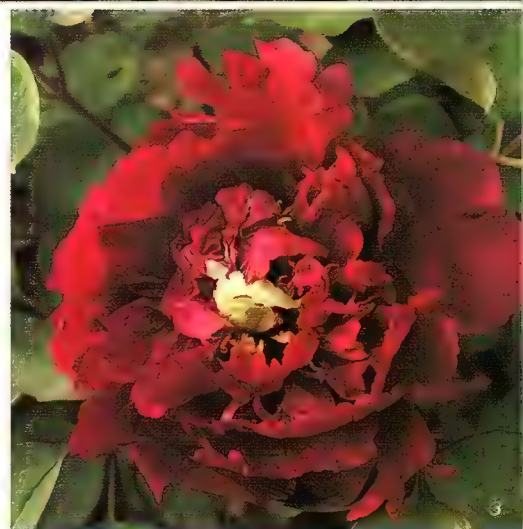
牡丹品種的「後代」

The legend is charming, however, historical records show that there were already peonies in Luoyang as early as the Sui Dynasty (581-618)! They continued to flourish during the Tang Dynasty (618-907) and became known as "the best under heaven" during the Northern Song Dynasty (960-1127). After many years of cultivation the peonies have produced luxuriant leaves and large handsome flowers. Today they can be found in many gorgeous colours and a wealth of varieties earning them

praise as "the best of the flowers" and "the queen of flowers". The best are to be found here, perhaps because Luoyang offers ideal natural growing conditions for peonies: a mild climate, fertile soil and plentiful water; or perhaps it is because it was the capital of nine dynasties from the Han down to the Northern Song where the cultivation of peonies was closely connected to the highly developed arts of landscape gardening and architecture or simply because its population are culturally more sophisticated. As a result, the peony has been known as the Luoyang flower since ancient times.

THE FLOWERS LAST ONLY TEN DAYS

The blooming period of the peony is relatively short, usually lasting only 10 days. But during that time the peonies of Luoyang bloom in a riot of colour: red, yellow, blue, white, purple, pink, green and black, and in different shades too. There are single, semi-double and double petals in chrysanthemum, golden-ring and pavilion shapes. During the peak blossoming time, a flower will wither in three to five days, so to lengthen the blooming period for the Peony Festival, horticulturists in Luoyang have cultivated early, middle and late species, so that the flowering



1. "Light Yellow"
2. "Court Lady Among Green"
3. "Green Dragon in an Ink Dish" is a flower of dark purple petals with a green pistil. It is a rare variety of black peony.
4. Peony Pavilion in Wangcheng Park during the Peony Festival
5. The "Luoyang Red" is a special Luoyang variety that can be seen everywhere in the city. It grows tall, produces many flowers and is called "the ancestor of Luoyang peonies".
6. The "Flowering Two Qiaos" is a flower of two colours.



period can last about 20 days in relay. They also use chemicals, build sheds over the plants or sprinkle cold water over the blooms to lower the temperature, which can make the flowers last three to five days longer.

To enhance their interest the peonies are named after the families who cultivated them, or their colour or

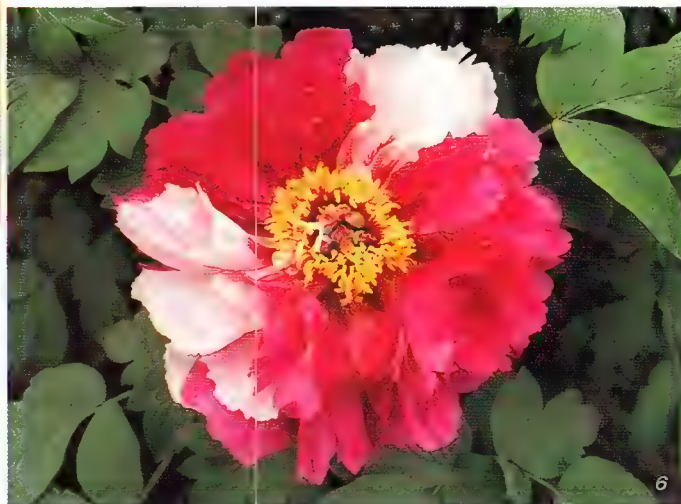
shape, or after other flowers or historical figures. For example, there is a "Yao Yellow", which is named after a Yao family who lived at the foot of Luoyang's Mangshan Hill during the Song Dynasty. The "Zhao Pink" was cultivated by a Zhao family in the Qing Dynasty. The "Flowering Two Qiaos" is the name of a plant which produces a double-coloured bloom usually pink and purple. The "Two Qiaos" refer to the famous two beautiful daughters of a Qiao family in the State of Wu during the period of the Three Kingdoms (220-280). The "Drunken Lady Yang" is named after Court Lady Yang of the

Tang Dynasty. With over 300 varieties there are countless names.

THE ANNUAL PEONY FESTIVAL


Just as the climate and soil in Luoyang are favourable towards peonies, so too are the people who have a particular love of the peony. In ancient times, their cultivation was a favourite hobby and it was a tradition for the whole city to come out to see the peonies during their blooming period. Through the years this tradition has developed. The opening ceremony I attended was to be the 13th Luoyang

Peony Festival and held in the Peony Square attended by thousands of people, who later paraded the city. April 16 happened to be a Sunday and also the peak blooming period. Popular venues for admiring the flowers such as the Wangcheng Park, Peony





Park and Xiyuan Park were crowded with people. Visitors from other parts of the country and the world crowded the streets of the city. People vied with one another to have their photographs taken in front of the peonies, or just stood admiring them at their leisure. There were also people singing and dancing around the flower beds. Some shops had even built a temporary stage to play music or sing Henan opera in praise of the peony. In the pavilions and along the covered walkways, at marketplaces and in the streets were stalls where peonies were being painted and girls sold sprays of peonies. It is said that the people in Luoyang enjoy a more festive mood during the Peony Festival than during the New Year holidays. After admiring the beautiful peony flowers in the parks, families often lay out banquets to entertain friends and relatives.

There are also many varied cultural activities associated with the peony, such as gatherings for writers and poets, peony concerts, appreciation societies for new peony varieties, a peony lantern festival, exhibitions of calligraphic works, paintings, flower arrangements, potted miniature landscapes and photographs. Today, the peony has become a tourist attraction of Luoyang and a unique cultural phenomenon — the peony culture. Many individuals and families have distinguished themselves through the cultivation of the peony. Some have become artists, writers or photographers specializing in rendering the peony. Introduced into the everyday lives of people this flower has been infused into their folk art and all branches of fine artwork. 

Translated by Tang Bowen
Photos & Article by Shan Xiaogang

1. Girls dressed in mandarin gowns with peony designs parade the streets of Luoyang.

2. Peonies are the theme of the Peony Lantern Festival.

3. A family photo taken in front of peony lanterns



Tourist Map of Luoyang Peony Festival



A GUIDE FOR TOURISTS

Transportation

Bus: The journey takes about two hours along the expressway from Zhengzhou to Luoyang.

Train: Fast through trains to Luoyang from Beijing and Shanghai, and express trains to Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Qingdao and Zhengzhou passing Luoyang.

Air: Weekly flights from Beijing, Guangzhou and Hong Kong as well as extra flights during the Peony Festival, including chartered flights from Hong Kong and Japan.

Accommodation

The Mudan (Peony) Hotel is the most conveniently situated with the Friendship Hotel and New Friendship Hotel noted for their elegant surroundings. The municipal government limits the increase in room rates during the Peony Festival to within 20% (except for that of the Mudan Hotel which has an increase of 50%). All are three-star for overseas visitors.

Admiring the Flowers

Under ordinary weather conditions, the peonies are in full bloom during the Peony Festival. The Wangcheng Park has the most beautiful flowers. Next come the Guose Peony Park, Luoyang Peony Park, Xiyuan Park and Peony Park. To

catch the best display of blooms we suggest the following order: Peony Park, Xiyuan Park, Wangcheng Park, Guose Peony Park, Luoyang Peony Park and suburban flower nurseries. The total blooming period is 10 days. The usual rule is to see the best of the flowers in the morning, other flowers during any time of day and famous flowers in the evening. A visitor pressed for time can go straight to the Wangcheng Park and then take a taxi (fare about 20 yuan) to the Guose Peony Park on Mangling Ridge. This will take only half a day. The best way to appreciate the flowers, however, is to spend a whole day.

Cuisine

The Zhenbutong (Really Different) Restaurant established at the end of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) offers the best local specialities, including the genuine "Luoyang Water Banquet" and "Peony Banquet" as well as steamed dumplings, noodles and pork cooked in a small casserole.

Shopping

The best choice of souvenirs are of course, traditional Chinese paintings, embroideries and Tang-dynasty tri-colour potteries of peonies which are available at the Luoyang Arts and Crafts Building diagonally opposite Wangcheng Park.

Festival Revelry

People who work hard all year round have always needed time to relax. But physical and mental relaxation, although important, are not enough. Eating, drinking, playing games and generally having good fun must also feature prominently. And therein lie the essential ingredients of a festival. All that is left is to choose an auspicious day and give it a name.

China is a large country with as many as 56 nationalities. If one were to put all the festivals of all the nationalities together, the number would be huge, and if one were to visit the people of the 56 nationalities during each of their festivals the carnival atmosphere and deafening sound of drums and gongs alone would wear one out.

Translated by Xiong Zhenru

Text by Shi Fu & Jun Feng



**WAIST-DRUM DANCE
AT THE LANTERN FESTIVAL**

(Photo by Du Baotong in Shaanxi)

The waist-drum dance starts on the land of loess under a blue sky, raising up a storm of dust. The robust male dancers of Northern Shaanxi soon overshadow the vast wilderness.





DRESS CONTEST, FESTIVAL OF THE YI NATIONALITY

(Photo by Li Xuezhi in Sichuan)

To live instrumental or pre-recorded music women of Panxi dress in their holiday best and dance hand in hand during the gala day. Their movements are lithe and graceful.

"SANYUESAN", FESTIVAL OF THE BAI NATIONALITY

(Photo by Hu Naichang in Yunnan)

A sky full of flying confetti is strewn from the hands of these Bai girls in Dali. Is the sweet sound drifting through the wind their laughter, or the beating of their hearts?



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A New Sanctuary in Leshan

After 90 years of arduous work, the colossal statue of the Buddha on Lingyun Mountain in Leshan, Sichuan Province was finally completed in the year 803. Carved out of the rock face it has sat for more than 1,100 years in a most imposing fashion by the confluence of three rivers and was the world's tallest likeness of the Enlightened One.

This record, however, was challenged a few years ago by a Cantonese visitor to the area who, with keen eyes and perhaps a touch of luck, glanced at the skyline of the Lingyun, Wuyou and Yungang hills and saw a gigantic Buddha asleep in the contours of the hills. When news of this sighting spread, Buddhists all over the world were mesmerized; giving wings to the imagination, one wild yarn after another was spun about its origins. Observation decks were soon erected at vantage points offering good views of the sleeping Buddha, and money rolled in from those who came to marvel at this masterpiece of mother nature.

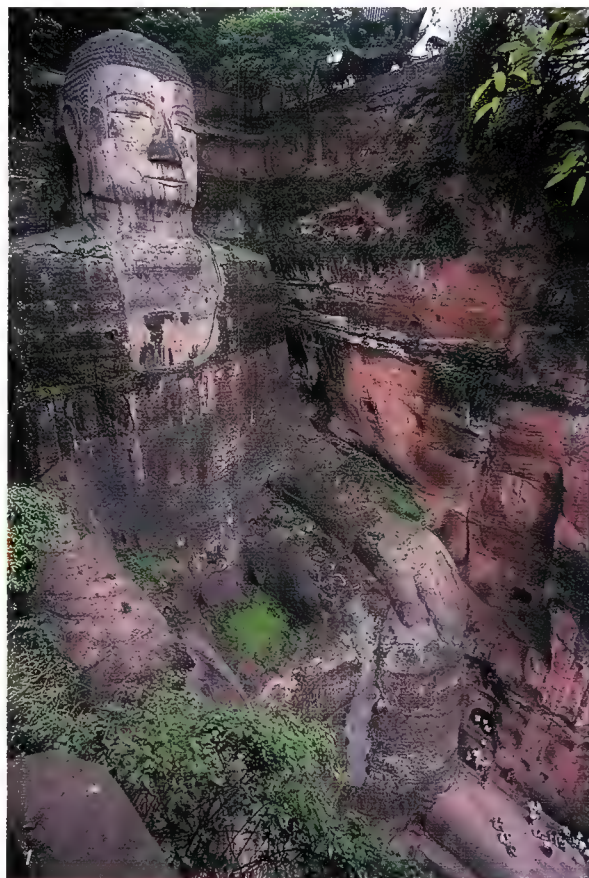
But the Leshan story did not just end there; not long ago Leshan City hit the headlines again when it announced the completion of a Buddhist sanctuary enshrined with a mighty assemblage of 3,000 statues of Chinese and foreign Buddhas right behind the giant Leshan Buddha.

WORLD'S TALLEST BUDDHA

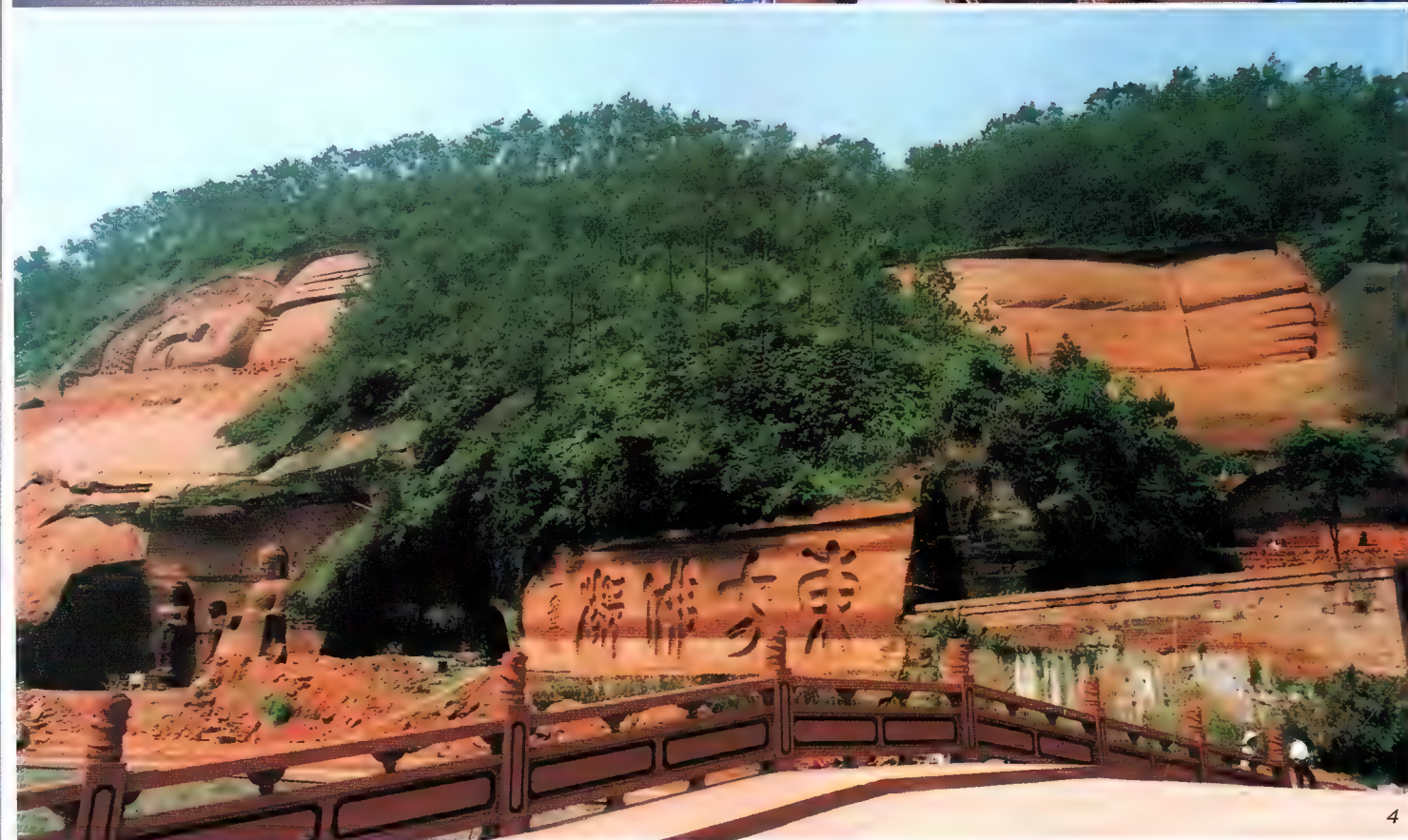
Beyond the stone archway, to the newly completed sanctuary known as "Door to Triple Samadhi", lies the world's longest sleeping Buddha at 173 metres. Modelled after the famous reclin-

ing Buddha at Dazu which captures Sakyamuni in *nirvana*, the sculpture covers the entire length of a mountainside. This is evocative of the phrase used in eulogy of the Leshan Buddha: "The mountain is a Buddha; the Buddha is a mountain." Despite its monumental size, the sculpture is crafted through the artists' ingenious chiselling in an amazingly intricate fashion. The Buddha's face, in particular, is every bit the paragon of composure, solemnity and aloofness.

The sculpture is unique in that it is positioned in perfect congeniality with the terrain, the head on the southern end and the legs stretching northward.



1. The riverside Leshan Buddha stands 71 metres tall (by Chan Yat Nin).
2. A Lingyun Buddha at dusk (by Chen Jin)
3. In the distance, the contours of the Lingyun, Wuyou and Yungang hills form an evocative scene of the gigantic Buddha in slumber (by Chen Jin).
4. The 173-metre-long Buddha (by Leng Dengyi)





1. A view over the Bay of Great Buddhas (by Lai Wu)

2. Some of the Buddhist statues carved into this cliff have been weathered by the elements (by Huang Yanhong).

3. In front of the replica of an exotic Buddha statue (by Huang Yanhong)

4. A Buddhist statue replica from the Yungang Grottoes, the addition of a lengthy stairway adds to its imposing look (by Huang Yanhong).

The green vegetation on the hills is deliberately left intact so that the Buddha looks as though it were sleeping under a cover of green *kasaya*.

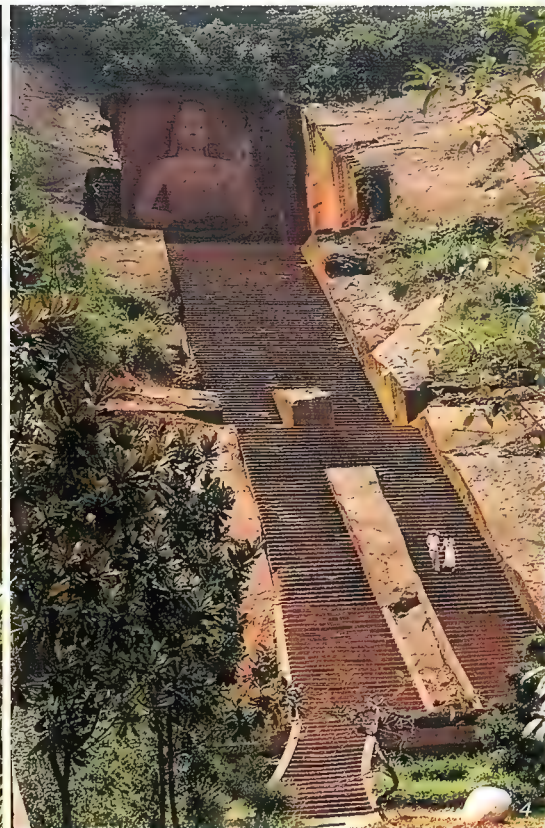
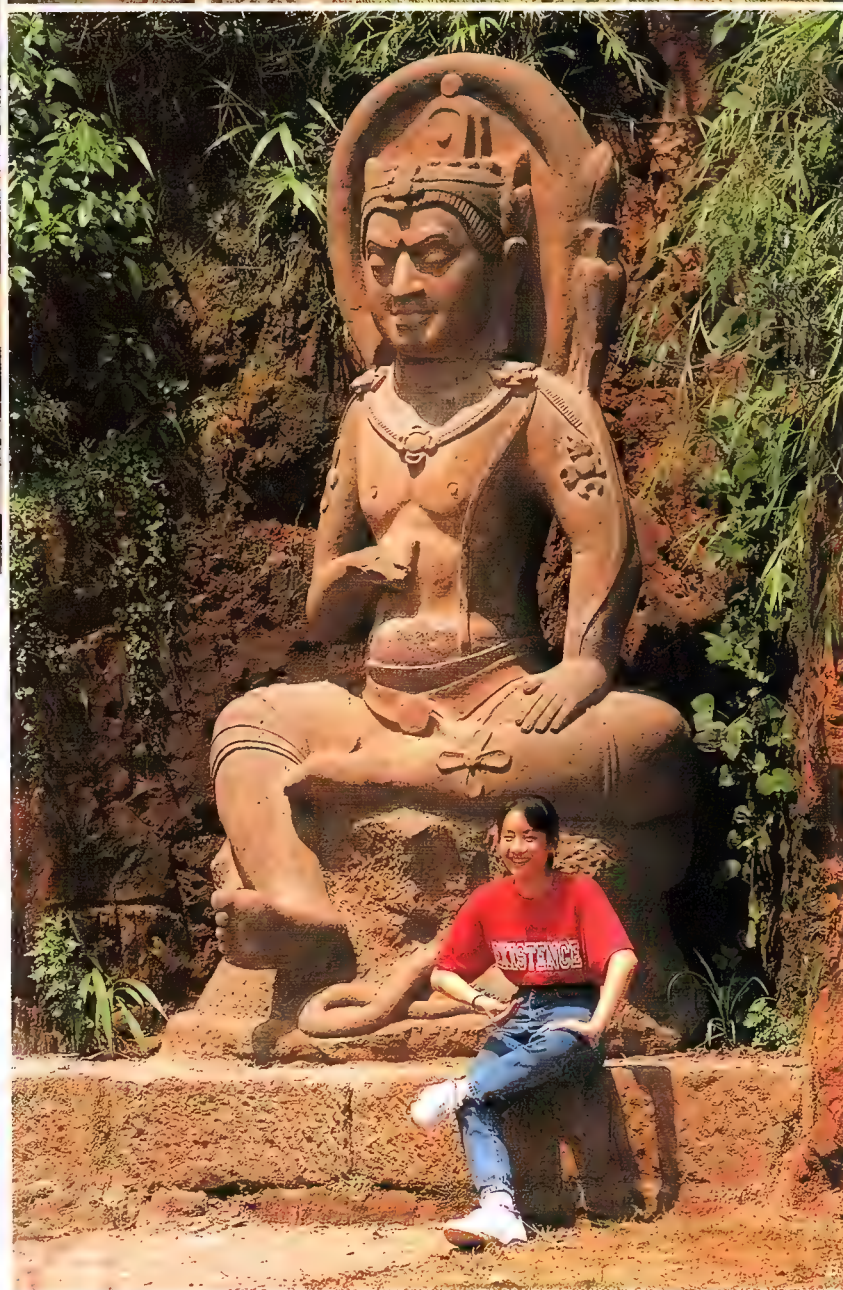
TOWERING YUNGANG BUDDHA

As the name suggests, the Bay of Great Buddhas features a collection of replicas of famous Buddhist statues from around the country. A cloister composed of a dozen or so sculptures forms a semicircle around the spacious Square of Samsara. In the centre the curled smoke of burning incense rises from a stone altar fashioned in the shape of a lotus flower. Within a short space of time the bay has already become a Mecca for Buddhist worshippers.

A majestic replica of the Buddha

statue enshrined in the Yungang Grottoes in Datong, Shanxi Province stands atop a 173-step stone stairway, as if to verify that: "The Buddha is the emperor himself." The work is as gigantic in size as its original and is just as splendid in terms of artistic appeal and sculptural nuance.

The imitation Yungang Buddha is flanked on both sides by 11 distinctive statues, which includes a copy of the Maitreya Buddha from Hangzhou in Zhejiang Province portraying a pot-bellied sage with an infectious, happy-go-lucky smile; the sleeping Buddha from Anyue in the same province is in his usual somnolent state, but his disciples in attendance show no sign of drowsiness; one, with bulging muscles, looks like a body-building contestant. The Xinchang Buddha, a copy from Zhejiang Province,



wears a moody expression softened by a touch of kindness. His awesome looks notwithstanding, the Buddha of Mount Sumeru puts on an air of dignity as he always does. The Buddha from the Maijishan Grottoes in Tianshui, Gansu Province is cast in a graceful and poised manner compatible with his fabled magnanimous attitude towards the multitude in the ordinary world.

With the exception of two freestanding stone sculptures, all the other Buddhist statues in the Bay of Great Buddhas are chiselled directly into the cliffs. In ancient times this technique was very difficult. A lapse of attention or a slip of the chisel could spell disaster for the entire work. Forgotten for two centuries, this technique was once again employed for the construction of the Leshan sanctuary of Buddhist statues. The results are a resounding success — it were as if the omnipotent Buddha had extended a helping hand to the builders.

ARTIST'S SWAN SONG

A group sculpture situated in the lower part of the Bay of Great Buddhas, called *Resisting Temptations of the Ogresses*, tells the story of Sakyamuni confronted by a demonic group of seductresses

determined to lead him astray and so scuttle his quest towards enlightenment. Sakyamuni manages to scare away the tempting ogresses by impersonating a spooky skeleton. He continues with his meditation, and shortly afterwards becomes the Enlightened One.

It is said that this piece is the one and only Buddhist work in the life of Liu Kaiqu, a celebrated Chinese sculptor and the designer of the Monument to the People's Heroes in Beijing's Tian'anmen Square. Liu died shortly after completing this Sakyamuni sculpture.

"FOREIGN" BUDDHAS ALSO WELCOME

Part of this sanctuary is reserved for replicated Buddha statues from India, Japan, Nepal and other Southeast Asian countries. Here, the Buddha is seen sitting fully composed on a coiled snake, standing on top of lotus pedestals or in deep meditation. The arm-less Indian Goddess of the Forest stands half naked smiling bewitchingly at onlookers; the feminine beauty of India is brought out through the curvaceous lines that run through her entire body. The 1,600-year-old Pakistani statue of Sakyamuni captures the touching scene of the Buddha sleeping in *nirvana*, it remains a visual delight to this day; through the elaborate beauty of sculptured detail the Buddha's calm countenance is set in striking contrast with his disciples' woebegone looks.

1. The model used for the replica of the Kamakura Buddha from Japan is placed on a slope not far from the final work (by Huang Yanhong).

2. This copper sculpture of a sitting Buddha measures 1.4 metres in height. The original, 2.3 metres in height, was produced in the early seventh century B.C. and is now part of a collection in the National Museum in Tokyo (by Lai Wu).



1. *Statue of the Buddha, carved from marble (by Huang Yanhong)*
2. *No earthly attire would fit the voluptuous fairy in this relief wall sculpture (by Chen Jin).*


The eyes of Siva (God of Destruction, Austerities and Dance) flash a smile reminiscent of Angkorwat, the sacred Buddhist sanctuary in Cambodia. The great Kamakura Buddha from Japan sitting cross-legged measuring eight metres tall, wears a smile so captivating that visitors vie with each other to have pictures taken with him....

UNDERGROUND TREASURE-TROVE

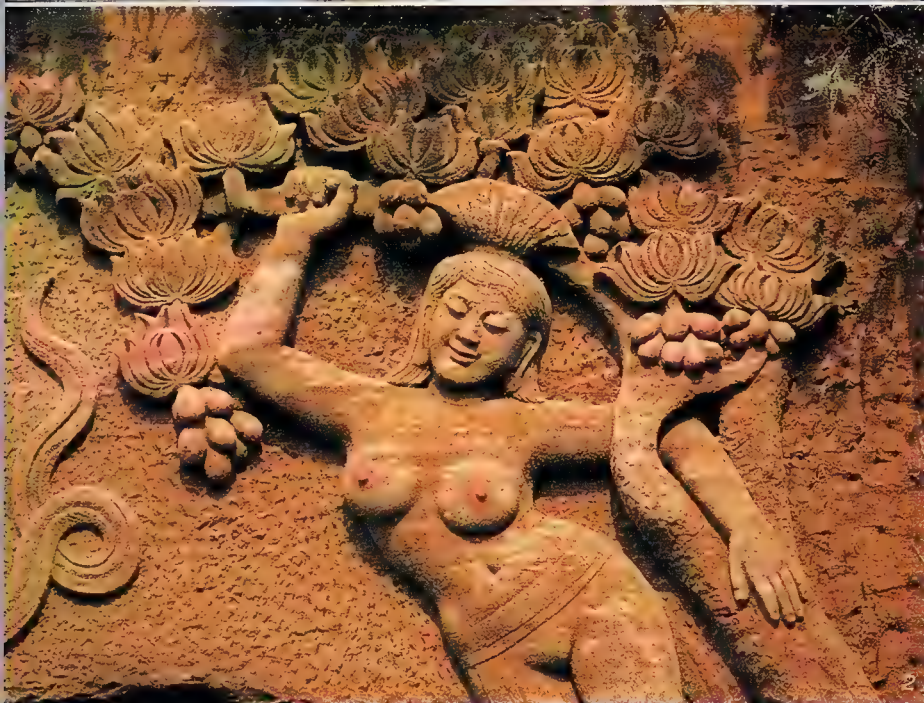
Some of the more finely crafted statues are housed in an underground

gallery with a total floorspace of more than 800 square metres. The walls of the lobby and the eastern and northern wings are graced with relief carvings depicting the life of Buddha, delineating the Enlightened One's teachings, or portraying the images of a host of Bodhisattvas, guardian spirits and ferocious warriors. These works of art combine to form a kaleidoscopic picture of the world of the Buddha. The flying Apsaras modelled after the Dunhuang Grottoes in Gansu Province are impressive with their superb craftsmanship. *Palace Maids Paying Tribute to the Buddha*, a group picture carved in relief on a damp wall, has grown green with moss and grass; as if by the provident arrangement of an invisible hand, a cluster of grass grows out of a stone vat held in the hand of one palace maid.

The underground gallery features a hall devoted to the Goddess of Mercy and a cave which enshrines an assortment of Buddhist images; but an assembly of 36 finely wrought statues from China and Southeast Asia is a must for visitors. The originals of some of these statues have long been lost; their replicas are placed here so that, according to Buddhist belief, the lost "souls" have a home to return to. There is something ethereal about one of the works, a replica of a statue from the private collection of a New York resident, reproduced thanks to a donator from Hong Kong.

Many of the originals are miniature likenesses of the Buddha but here their copies have been enlarged to life-size proportions for the convenience of the onlooker and to inspire a feeling of affinity in those who care to travel here from long distances. The original Burmese scene *Eight Aspects of the Buddha's Life* is a tiny 0.15-metre-long picture enlarged here to 1.7 metres, while the Japanese 0.47-metre statue of a standing Buddha has been enlarged to 1.5 metres. In some cases, the replicas are made of a different material from the original. For instance, some sculptures are carved in wood instead of their original stone, or crafted from stone instead of the original bronze. But no matter what the medium, care has been taken to produce faithful and accurate artistic renditions of the originals. 

*Translated by Ling Yuan
Article by Huang Yanhong*



THE PULSE OF MODERN CHINA
SINCE 1979

A photograph of a jazz band performing in a dimly lit club. A pianist is visible in the background, and a drummer is in the foreground, mostly in silhouette. The lighting is warm and atmospheric, with a large window in the background showing a grid pattern.

Old Jazz Band of Shanghai Peace Hotel



China Club members enjoy an evening of jazz, 30's and 40's style.



It was to be a night of nostalgia for the glamorous people who gathered at the China Club situated on the top floor of Hong Kong's old China Bank Building.

This dinner banquet was for the rich and famous, but the people creating the atmosphere and on whom all attention was focused were six veterans playing jazz oldies from the 1930's and 1940's. They were the Shanghai Peace Hotel Old Jazz Band.

This was to be their fourth visit to the territory, and the famous jazz band proved their talent and charisma had not faded.

BACK TO THE THIRTIES

Six years ago, when I stayed at the Peace Hotel they were the resident band of the hotel's bar, and I spent my evenings listening to them play. Since then, whenever I returned to Shanghai I always went to see them.

In this I am not alone. Most of the people who crowd the hotel bar from eight till late come to see the band, or perhaps they are in search of the long lost glamour of Shanghai's night life.

The bar covers no more than a hundred square metres. Its decor — the dark, elegant bar top, the old-fashioned wine rack and chandeliers — have probably remained unchanged since God knows when. And the band play mainly 30's and 40's jazz songs like Amor, Sweet Georgia Brown, My Heart Belongs to Daddy.... Enough to give you the feeling of being in another era.

Most of the bar's visitors are non-Chinese who come to see the band play as if they were going to a concert. The older ones, in particular, enjoy the music greatly, often dancing or singing along.

And when the band takes a break, there are always guests wanting to shake hands with the band, just to say "hello", or to toast them like old friends they have not seen for a long time. People often linger on even after "Auld Lang Sune" is played at midnight.

A HOT TOURIST SPOT

The bar at the Peace Hotel has received some illustrious guests in its history including the former US presidents Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan,

the senior aides of Queen Elizabeth II and other heads of state.

The group first became known in the US after Reagan's visit, then in July 1984 the representative group from the White House also came to see them while they were in Shanghai; so too the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Mahathir Mohamad, in spite of his hectic schedule. The Prime Minister came with his wife



and an entourage of dozens of people.

Many tourists are known to have gone straight to the bar on their arrival in the city. The group's attraction is perhaps even greater than the city's scenic spots.

Actually the charm and fame of the jazz group has already turned Peace Hotel into a hot tourist attraction. The senior musicians are sometimes referred to as the "Treasures of Shanghai".

GOOD TIMES AND BAD

This time in Hong Kong I managed to secure an interview with the six musicians. So over a cup of tea we talked about the band and the rise and fall of jazz popularity in Shanghai.

The men all enjoyed excellent health and at times it was difficult for me to believe that their average age was over 68. The oldest is the drummer, Cheng Yueqiang, who comes from the province of Guangdong. He is now 77, but is still a most energetic performer, tackling speed and rhythm with ease.

The group leader Zhou Wanrong, 75, was once the principal trumpet player of the Shanghai Philharmonic Orchestra. His mouth ringed by a mark resulting from half a century of trumpet playing. Pianist Cao Ziping, 70, is also a brilliant accordionist. The group's two saxophonists, Gu Jinlong and Sun Jibin, are over 60 and were the most photogenic of all my past photos of the group. I once played the double bass, so

was a bit disappointed that the bass player I knew, Zhou Hongbin, did not come but was replaced by a Li Mingkang.

Zhou Wanrong, who played trumpet, actually started the interview. And of course he never veered far from the subject of jazz, which has dominated most of his life. His personal ups and downs were closely linked to the rise and fall of jazz popularity in China.

Jazz music was very popular in Shanghai in the 40's. At that time the city was enjoying a rich, glamorous night life. Night clubs were numerous and doing brisk business. Each one had its own jazz band which tended to

consist of foreign band members, hired from overseas. Then, the most famous of all the night clubs, Bailemen, replaced their Philippino band with one formed by Chinese. This group soon became so popular in Shanghai that they outshone all the other foreign bands. The nightclub's name even came to signify that period, known as the "Bailemen Era". Among the present band members, Zhou, who played trumpet, the drummer and the pianist were once members of the original band.

But in the 50's jazz popularity began to decline, so Zhou and Cheng, the drummer, left Shanghai for Hong Kong

cians, on the verge of retirement, decided to regroup and play in the Peace Hotel. It proved to be a timely comeback as China's open-door produced a large influx of tourists. However, there was little in the way of night life to offer the people apart from Beijing opera and acrobatic shows. The most standard of itineraries even described Shanghai as "temples by day, bed by night". But this band, with their beautiful jazz, provided visitors to Shanghai with some fine entertainment. So fine that their name spread overseas, and they were invited to perform in the United States, Japan, Singapore and other places.

Back at the interview each one of



the men before me became so excited as they recalled their frequent overseas tours during recent years that they reminded me of a bunch of kids. Again, I found it difficult to think that their combined ages added up to over 400 years. They were so proud of themselves. Justifiably so, they are very accomplished players with an impressive repertoire of 500 songs. Treasures indeed.

They have been together now for over 15 years, and are still going strong. The main reason? They put it down to their passion for jazz!

As we parted, I wished them a long and healthy life and wished that Shang-

hai could keep its treasures for a long, long time. **C**

*Translated by Megina Kwan
Photos & Article by Chan Yat Nin*

to play in a Chinese Restaurant in Shek Tong Tsui. Once known for its night entertainment, this area was in the western part of Hong Kong Island overseeing Belcher Bay and where Kennedy Town Praya meets Des Voeux Road West. After a while, Zhou returned to Shanghai to join the Shanghai Philharmonic Orchestra.

For the ensuing three decades the sound of jazz was condemned to be a symbol of decadence within the country and all performances ceased.

RICH REPERTOIRE OF 500

Jazz was only revived in the early 1980's when China began her open-door policy. In 1980, this group of musi-

1. Nostalgia seeps out from the band's music.
2. The Peace Hotel band performing at the Peace Hotel bar which is always a full house (by Xie Guanghui)
3. Old friends meet again (by Xie Guanghui).
4. The mark around the lips of band manager Zhou Wanrong illustrates just how long he has been playing the trumpet.



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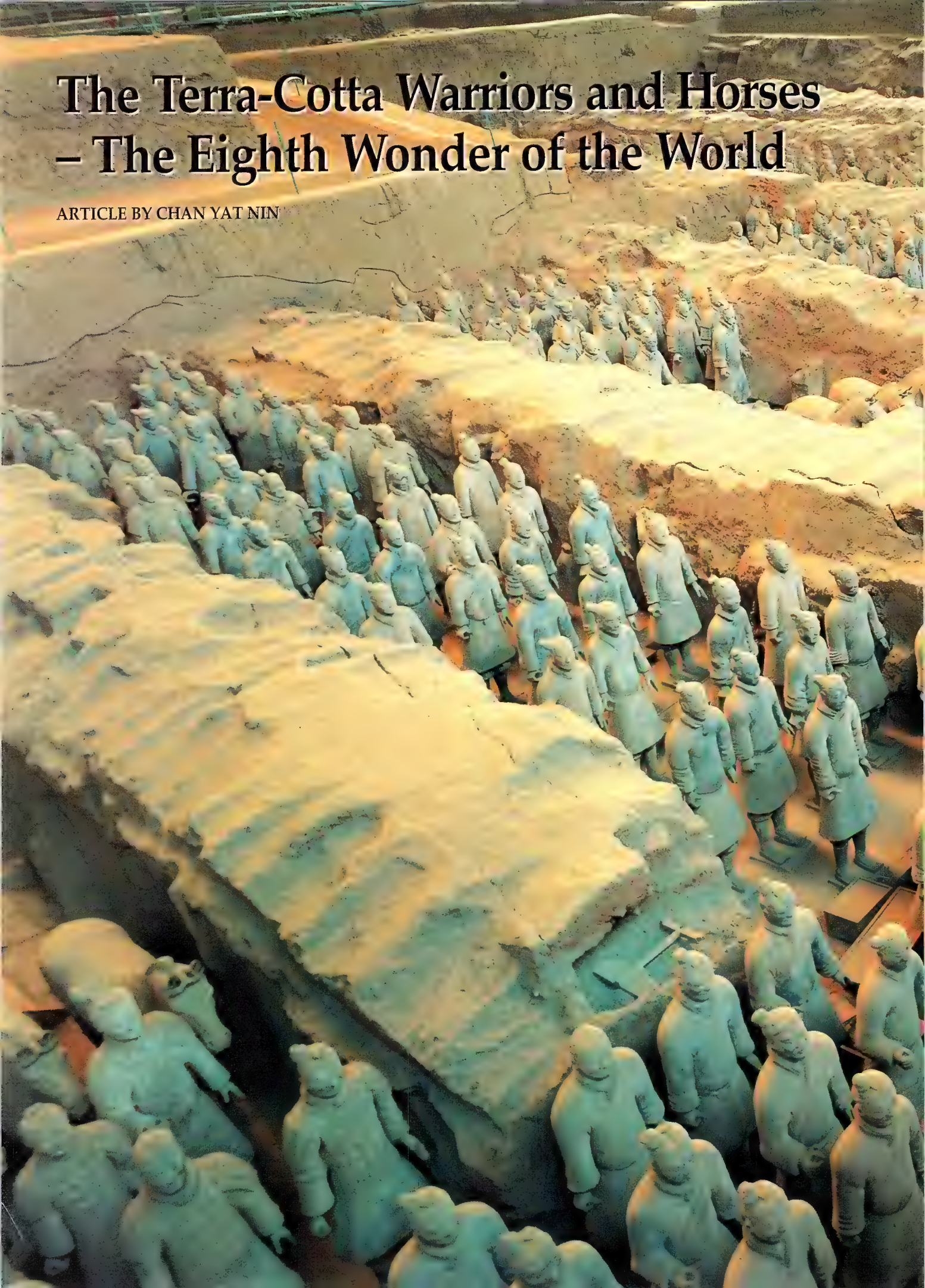
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The Terra-Cotta Warriors and Horses – The Eighth Wonder of the World

ARTICLE BY CHAN YAT NIN





The mighty military formation in Pit One of the Museum of Terra-cotta Warriors near Qin Shihuang's mausoleum (by Huang Jixian)

Visitors to the *in situ* Museum of Qin-Dynasty Terra-cotta Warriors and Horses at the Tomb of Qin Shihuang in Xi'an are in for the surprise of their lives.

What spreads before them is a mighty army of 8,000 valiant warriors in a battle formation of 38 columns. Cavalrymen and charioteers stand alongside horses with craned necks and flying manes, their eyes glaring and nostrils flared.

Visitors are hushed into quiet reverence by the awesome sight of this military array and the superb craftsmanship of the pottery figures, they tend to ask: How was it possible for the Chinese to have worked this miracle when other civilizations were, by and large, still in their infancy some two millennia ago?

Tomb of Qin Shihuang – Largest Imperial Necropolis

The tomb, guarded by this enormous army of terra-cotta warriors, is the largest of its kind in the world. Buried inside are the remains of Qin Shihuang, or the First Sovereign Emperor of the Qin Dynasty (221-207 B.C.), regarded as the toughest monarch in Chinese history though his empire was very short-lived.

During the period 230-221 B.C. he unified China for the first time under the supreme rule of the Qin Dynasty. He abolished the fiefdoms and replaced them with an administrative system of counties and prefectures, he standardized the nation's law, written language, currency, weights and measures and the axle lengths of carts. All these measures had a profound impact on Chinese feudal society which was to last for more than 2,000 years.

Shortly after he took the throne he prepared for his death by having this gigantic underground palace built for himself. After he had unified the country he continued the project by conscripting 700,000 workmen, or one-tenth of the country's total work force from a population of 20 million.

According to the "Biography of the Founding Emperor of the Qin Dynasty" in the book *Records of the Historian*, the labourers dug deep through a number of subterranean streams, which they sealed off with bronze to make room for a dais on which the coffin was to be placed. They built models of palaces so that the emperor could still sit on high, even in death, and receive the homage of his officials and generals. The tomb was filled with fine vessels, precious stones and rarities. Booby-trapped crossbows were installed to automatically shoot anyone who dared to intrude. Underground lakes and ditches were dug to symbolize the great rivers and oceans on earth; these were filled with quicksilver made to flow and circulate mechanically. The ceiling of the tomb was painted with heavenly constellations, and the floor graced with a map of the land. Lamps were fueled with dugong oil so that they might burn forever.



It took 37 years for this mammoth tomb complex to be completed! Even to this day it remains unprecedented by way of its size and amount of labour consumed. In 210 B.C., the emperor died. Hu He, his son and Second Emperor of the Qin Dynasty, buried him in all solemnity and extravagance. To keep the burial site a complete secret, he had all the builders buried alive along with imperial concubines who had failed to bear the emperor's children.

According to history books, the necropolis has been broken into five times. The greatest plunder took place in 206 B.C. when Xiang Yu, Lord of Chu, took Xianyang, capital of the Qin Dynasty. In the sack of the city that ensued, his soldiers went on a rampage, looting the imperial palaces and Qin Shihuang's tomb. It was said that some 300,000 men transported the burial objects out of the palaces and tomb for

30 days on end, but the underground collection was still far from being exhausted.

Today, nothing of the buildings are left standing over the Qin emperor's mausoleum save for a tumulus covered with grass and trees. After nearly two decades of prospecting and surveying, archaeologists have come to a conclusion which differs totally from what history books have to say: that the immense burial complex has never been broken into and that it is well preserved in its entirety.

It has been verified that the burial site is spread over an area of 225 square kilometres more than double the city proper of present-day Xi'an. The emperor's mausoleum covers nearly eight square kilometres and was originally divided in two parts, the outer city surrounded by a wall 6,210 metres long and the inner city 3,840 metres in circumference. The tumulus protrudes 46 metres from the ground in the southern part of the inner city. In between the outer and inner cities lies a cluster of burial pits – 17 for horses, 17 for earthen pots

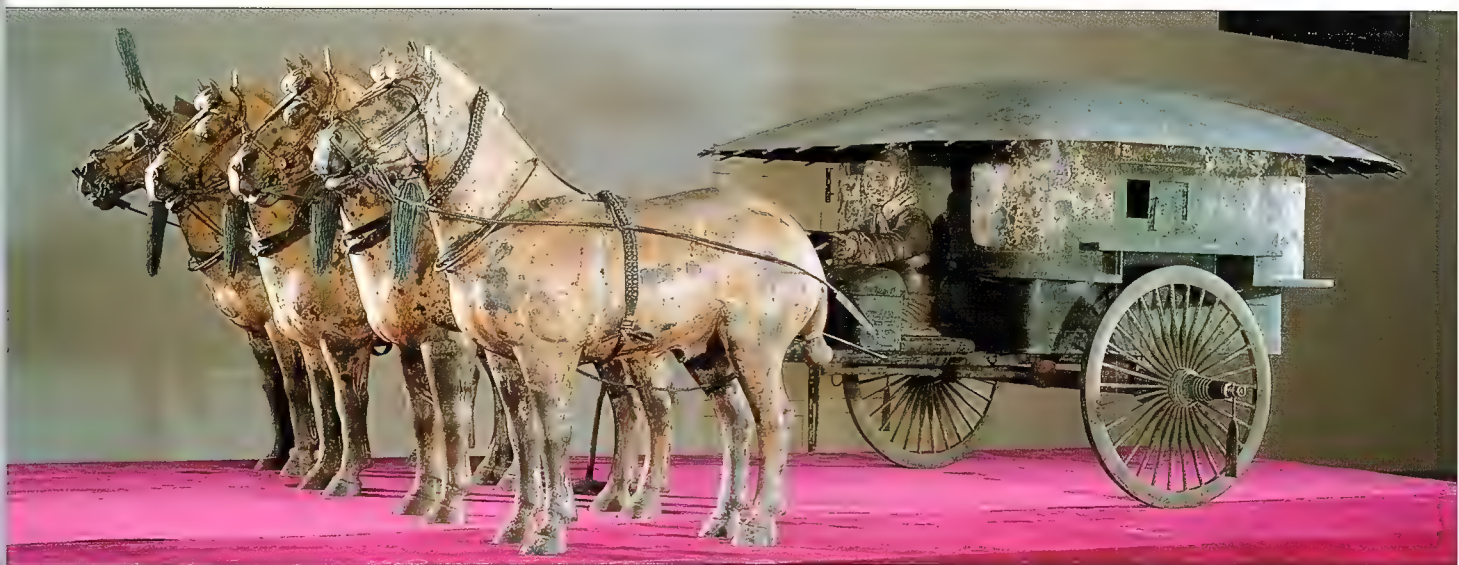


which contained rare birds and exotic animals and 14 for terra-cotta soldiers. A passageway to the west of the mausoleum is filled with wooden and bronze chariots; to the north another passageway conducts to a maze of subterranean fortifications, annexes and a chamber for those who were buried alive with the emperor's remains. Another underground

1. The Mausoleum of Qin Shihuang takes the shape of a square barrow 120 metres in height and 2,167 metres in circumference (by Yang Limin).
2. A group sculpture in eulogy of Qin Shihuang in Lintong County (by Qiu Ziyu)
3. At one excavation site: having been in oblivion for the last two millennia, the terra-cotta warriors are eventually brought to light (by Yang Limin).
4. The military array in Pit One is composed of a three-row vanguard and a 38-column main force (by Chan Yat Nin).







2

tunnel is found to the east of the mausoleum. Huge amounts of debris are left on the northern side of the inner city, and they probably belonged to the gravekeeper's quarters and the ancestral temple. Archaeological studies have revealed an unusually high mercury content in the soil within an area of 12,000 square metres; this serves to vindicate historical records of mercury lakes around the underground palaces, and gives rise to speculation that the burial complex is free from pillage thanks to the highly toxic mercury and the impregnability of the structures.

More than 100 supplementary burial sites for horse stables, animals and criminals are found on the periphery of the mausoleum. All the discovered burial pits and tombs add



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up to only one tenth of the total area of the necropolis. The area already under excavation totals only several thousand square metres, but even from this meagre acreage some 50,000 precious artifacts have already been brought to light. From this tiny tip of an iceberg mankind will be able to gradually unveil the mystery surrounding the tomb.

Underground Guards Amaze the World

For all that has been said and told, the army of terra-cotta warriors remain the most striking of all the major features of Qin Shihuang's tomb.

1. A glimpse of Pit One, where a bronze chariot was unearthed (by Wei Wangxiang)

2. The bronze horse-drawn carriage, discovered on the western side of the mausoleum, is known for its elegant design and superb workmanship (by Yang Limin).

3. The accurately and vividly crafted ceramic horses represent the Qin-dynasty steed unearthed from Pit One (by Yang Limin).

4. Pit Three houses the headquarters of Qin Shihuang's mighty army (by Yang Limin).

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The discovery of this army was quite accidental. In 1973, a group of farmers drilling well at a spot 1.5 kilometres east of the tomb dug up the sculpture of what they saw as "monster with glaring eyes". The ensuing digging revealed a massive chamber with an army of terra-cotta warriors arranged in the style of the emperor's imperial guards. Previously no single Chinese book had recorded these warriors.

So far a cluster of three large pits of the pottery figures has been brought to light. Pit One at an average depth of five metres, is the largest at 14,220 square metres (230 metres from east to west and 62 metres from south to north). The 6,000 terra-cotta warriors found in it constitute the Right Wing of the Guards' Corps. Pit Two (6,000 square metres in floorspace) contains the Left Wing, comprising 1,400 ceramic cavalrymen, charioteers, infantrymen and bowmen. Pit Three (520 square metres) houses a four-horse carriage and 68 figures who look like members of the headquarters. When Pit Four was dug up, nothing was found inside, and experts speculate that this should have been the site of the Central Route.

In all, the digs amount to more than 7,000 life-size warriors, over 100 chariots and more than 400 horses – all made of pottery. There are also several hundred thousand weapons: bronze swords, javelins, crossbows and arrowheads. Whether in scale, quantity or historic value, the collection is unique in the world.

No Two Warriors Look Alike

Pit One with its 6,000-strong army and Pit Three with its 68-member headquarters have become part of the *in situ* Museum of Qin Terra-Cotta Warriors and Horses. The bronze horse-drawn carriage and the weapons are on display in two separate halls.

In Pit One, right below the observation terrace is the three-row vanguard with warriors in combat uniform standing 70 to a row. Right behind the vanguard is the main force, which fill the 11 lanes in 38 columns, with cavalrymen and charioteers aligned with about four horse carriages. The main force is flanked on either side by a column whose members stand facing outward. The rear guard consists of a single row, with its members standing with backs against the main force. This well-known military formation may well be regarded as a showcase of the once invincible Qin army.

A closer look reveals that no two warriors look alike: men with square faces and full temples, eyes glaring, forever combat-ready soldiers sporting deep-set eye sockets and curly beards, their stocky builds, suggestive of a minority ethnic background; new recruits with their characteristic baby faces and strapping bodies; some standing straight-rod like resourceful generals, calm and well-disciplined, their eyes knitted in a reverie.

There is no lack of individuality, as well, in way of outfit. The warriors are attired differently, some wearing short battle uniform, with

. A pottery general, excavated from Pit One, has a different stance to that of his soldiers (by Huang Jixian).

. No visitor can enter the museum without being silenced by the awesome sight of terra-cotta warriors and horses (by Chan Yat Nin).

. From Pit Two: A warrior keeps his kneeling posture as an archer, even though his weapon has rotted into nothingness (by Huang Jixian).

. The 11 lanes in Pit One are crowded with warriors of different services and ranks (by Tang Limin).



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hair tied into a topknot and hands bus stretching the bow; standing armoured warri ors wearing a soft hat or no headwear at al imperial charioteers in tall hat and armou over war robes, hands outstretched as steering the carriage; cavalymen sporting hat popular among Muslims and aptly attire for horseback riding and shooting – jacket tight at the waist, short armour and leather boots; army officers (there are very few of them) in a pointed crown and armour over battle uniform, with a weapon in the right hand; generals (there are even fewer of them) standing as tall as 1.9 metres, with hands rested idly on the handle of a sword, and attired totally differently from others – a long hat with double curling tips, armour over double layered battle robe, and shoes with upturned square tips. There is even a good variety of coiffure, and some of the styles look meticulously done.

The different dispositions and appearance are meant to show the terra-cotta warriors varying ethnic backgrounds, responsibilities and personalities. The sculptural techniques are realistic. The craftsmanship is breathtaking, with an exquisiteness unmistakably etailed in what may appear awkward and crude at first sight.

Most of the warriors in Pit Three are headless, and some of the objects bear marks of destruction. It is most likely that this pit had been sabotaged by enemies, say the army of Chu who took the heads of the lifeless soldiers as trophies.

Bronze Carriage – A Metalwork Wonder

State-of-the-art sculpture is not the only pride of the Qin tomb. There are other indications of the highly developed military science, politics, economy, science and technology and culture during the Qin Dynasty.

The bronzes – weapons, chariots and horse – excavated from the burial pits are marked by accurate and fine craftsmanship. After all these years the three bronze swords are still shining and sharp, thanks to a layer of highly erosion-resistant chromate, a technology which did not find its way to Europe and North America until the 1930s. The world's earliest poisonous arrow-tips were found in these pits – each tip contains 7.71 per cent of lead, which is highly toxic.

The bronze carriage and horses, now on display in the museum, are a wonder in metalwork history.

According to historical records, after Qin Shihuang unified the country, he went on several inspection tours of his empire, and he had windows fixed to his carriage to keep himself warm in winter and cool in summer. Hence the name "air-conditioned carriage".

In 1980, two half-size bronze horse-drawn carriages, colourfully painted in their early days, were dug up from a spot 20 metres west of the mausoleum. One is fixed with an awning

n the shape of an umbrella, propped high enough for the passenger to stand in the carriage. The second one has windows installed in its flanks. Drawn by four beautifully crafted bronze horses, the carriage is partitioned in two. In the frontal chamber is seated the royal quire wearing a bird-shaped hat, long gown and a dagger at the waist, he smiles faintly as he gazes raptly into space. His attire, coupled with his serene and restrained manner, indicates his status as a high-ranking imperial officer. His charge, the one who sits in the rear chamber, could only be an emperor, empress or prince.

The rear chamber looks spacious under an overhead canopy, with a rear door affixed to facilitate entry and exit. The two mobile windows, latticed to let in air and sunlight, are richly inlaid with elegant carvings of dragon and phoenix and cloud tracteries. In the chamber the master could sit or lie down to make himself comfortable.

The four bronze studs are paragons of sculptured beauty. Their bodies are plump



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1-4. Most of the warriors wear battle robes or armour, but each is depicted with a different image and personality (by Yang Limin).

5, 6. The different hair-styles show that soldiers in days long gone by were as fashion-conscious as people today (by Yang Limin).

7. From his features this army officer must have come from a certain ethnic tribe in the Western Regions (by yang Limin).

8. Replicas of the terra-cotta warriors sell like hot cakes, and this has given rise to a new profession, that of making pottery duplicates (by Pan Ke).

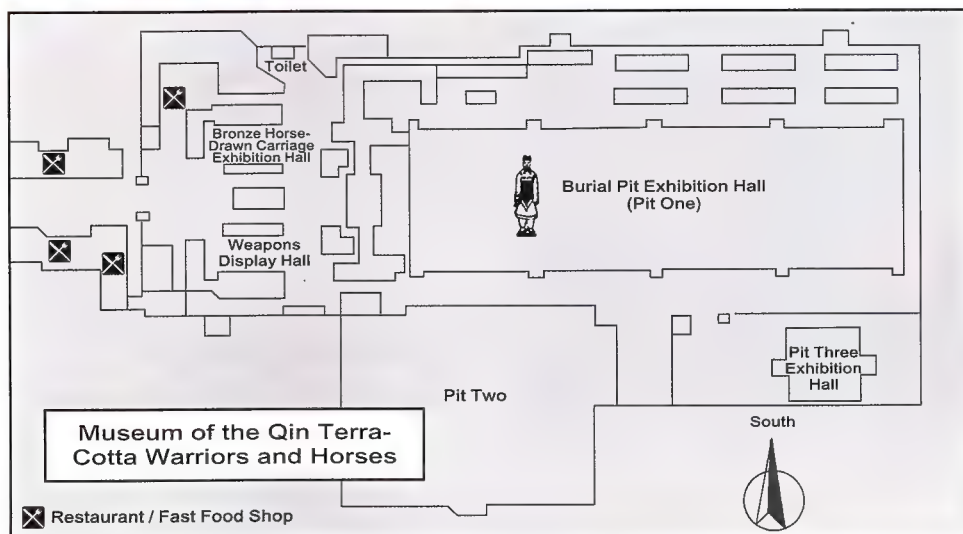
9. The methods employed to make the replicas is totally different from what it was two millennia ago (by Pan Ke).

and sinewy and, as befitting their royal status, they wear gold and silver necklaces and are lavishly decorated with other ornaments.

The carriage stands 3.17 metres long and 1.06 metres high and weighs 1,242 kilograms. It is composed of 3,462 parts, 737 of which are made of a total of 3,033 grammes of gold, and 983 of which are made of silver totalling 4,342.1 grammes. Each component is accurately made, with attention paid to the minutest detail.

As an embodiment of the highest technological attainment achieved during the Qin Dynasty, the bronze horse-drawn carriage alone is enough to hold all visitors in hushed awe and reverence.

Translated by Ling Yuan



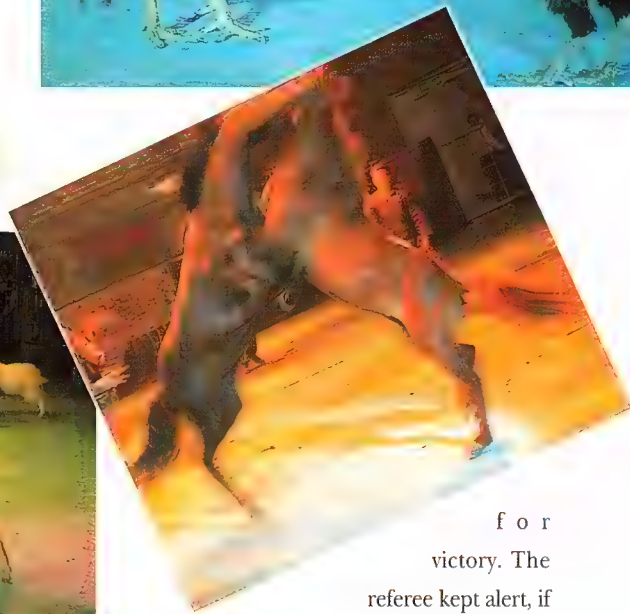
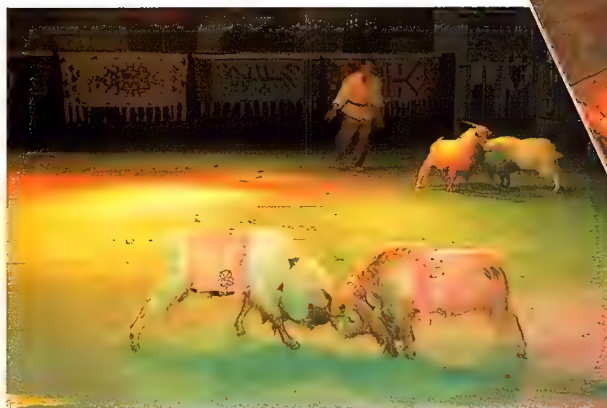


Fights Animal *in* Shanghai




During my visit to Shanghai, China's largest cosmopolitan city, a friend took me to Tianmeng Shijie (the World of Fairy Dreams), a pit where one could watch fights between bulls, horses, roosters and goats. It was the first time I knew that horses also fought.

The pit was an enclosure surrounded on



for victory. The referee kept alert, if either side showed signs of fatigue he would end the fight immediately to avoid death.

The horse fight was different, probably more interesting. Two studs would never fight unless a mare stood between them at which point the two studs would immediately forsake their "gentlemanly manner" and begin to fight for a "noble love". Most of the time they used their fore hooves to kick, but occasionally they would change tactics to attack with hind hooves, they even "kicked below the belt", until one admitted defeat. 

three sides by seats laid out on three storeys. Miao farmers from southwestern Guizhou performed their ethnic group rituals, after which the fights were preceded by a ceremony to worship their ancestors. Then, the animals of each species were filed out in two lines. They had been domesticated, chosen and then shipped to Shanghai.

The fights between bulls, goats and roosters were more or less the same: the two in the pit stared at each other; when hostility overtook them they charged at each other. Usually the two picked out were closely matched in strength and thus fought fiercely



Bull fight in Guizhou (by Huang Yanhong)

Translated by Li Guoqing
Photos & Text by Xie Guanghui



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Unfolding Giant Thangka at Langmu Monastery

PHOTOS BY LI KESHENG • ARTICLE BY NING YONGXIN

Before the Spring festival holidays of 1994 were over, on the 10th day of the first lunar month, several friends and I clad in very warm clothes, drove 460 kilometres from Lanzhou, the provincial capital of Gansu, to Langmu Monastery for the yearly grand religious ceremony held there: unfolding a giant *thangka*. The mechanical problem we had with our vehicle on the way and the freezing weather failed to dim our enthusiasm, and we continued the trip in high spirits.

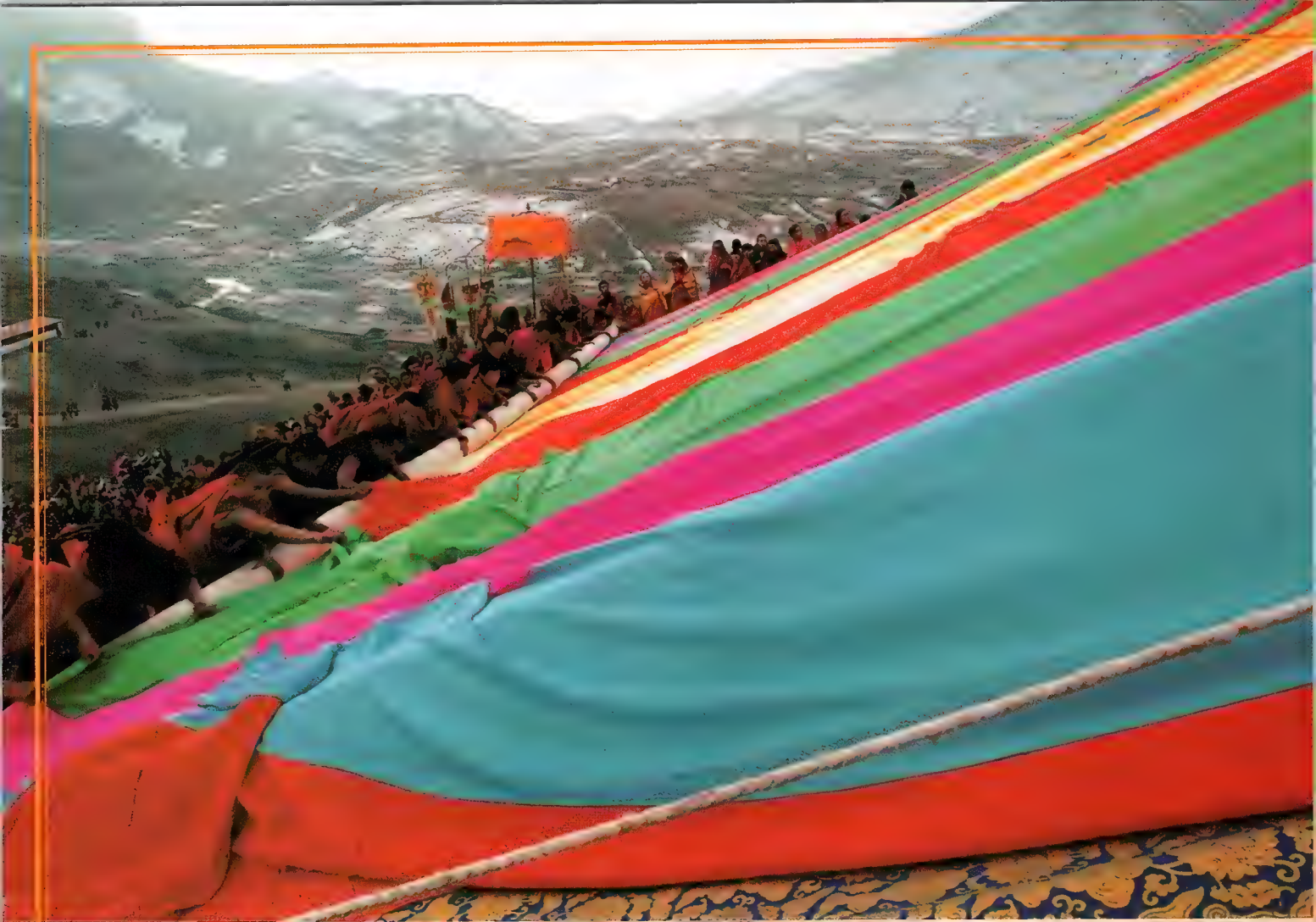


Lama guardians holding back the excited crowd



The giant thangka unfolded against the brilliant sunlight





As a fairly well-known Tibetan Buddhist monastery of Gelugpa Sect, Langmu is 3,100 metres above sea level, situated between Jiahe Village of Gansu Province and Dongka Village of Sichuan. It is an area sparsely populated mostly by Tibetan and Hui people. Except for the annual unfolding of the *thangka* that attracted many visitors, few people came to visit this place.

A Sacred Place Where Warm Spring and Cold Spring Meet

We arrived to see a festive monastery, Lamas busy preparing for the grand ceremony to be held next day. By a brook that gave off steam, several Tibetan women were washing their faces and combing their hair. Upon enquiry, we learnt they were Tibetan Buddhist followers and had come for the ceremony. The steaming brook, they told us, was from a nearby spring heated all year round — bestowed by Buddha. Interesting enough, in front of the monastery, there was a cold spring. The spot where the two brooks joined together to form the upstream of Bailong (White Dragon) River, was none other than the location of the Langmu Monastery. A sacred place designated by Buddha, locals said.

Many Tibetan Buddhist followers had come before us, either by vehicle or on foot. Several small hotels in the village had been fully booked up by journalists or tourists. As there were no tents put up, I wondered where religious followers could stay? Each of the 400 lamas from the monastery, I was told, was financially supported by a pious local family. It was viewed as a deed of loyalty to Buddha. In return, the lama hosted his benefactor's family during the ceremony, receiving them as his family members.

Giant Thangka Unveiled Against an Azure Sky

On the 13th of the first lunar month, early in the morning, people gathered on the open ground in front of the monastery, eyes on the poles erected for the ceremony, waiting anxiously. To get a good spot for taking pictures, we elbowed our way apologetically through the crowd. At nine o'clock, horns were blaring from the nearby hills, a signal urging people to hurry up to the spot. Before long, a team of strong lamas, escorted by a big crowd of their nates, carried on their shoulders a folded giant *thangka* out of the

monastery in dignified steps. Unfolding the *thangka* meant taking out the giant picture of Buddha kept in the monastery to receive sunshine, and followers received blessings from Buddha. However, the sky was at this moment overcast. A youth beside me noticed my worry and comforted me by saying, "As soon as the *thangka* is hung up the sun will come out." Then he added, "The same every year." Sure enough, the moment the *thangka* was hung upon the poles, as if by magic, the sun revealed itself from behind the cloud and shone brilliantly. At an order from the presiding lama, the colourful veil on the *thangka* was lifted to reveal the kind image of Buddha. The excitement of the crowd reached its peak.

Strong and Merciless Lama Guardians

The moment the veil was removed, people believed those who managed to touch the giant picture with their head would be blessed for a whole year. When the giant picture was revealed against the sunshine, people rushed up in a stampede only to be held back by strong and merciless lama guardians wielding thick clubs. A middle-aged man was lucky, for he rushed up at a lightening speed and successfully touched the *thangka* with his forehead. He smiled happily, believing the blessing he would receive was well worth the price he paid for his deed — being cudgeled. In order to get good pictures of the scene, my friend, a photographer, got close to the *thangka*, nearly being mistaken for another bystander attempting to touch the giant picture and cudgeled. Thanks to the camera in his hand that the guardian noticed, the guardian lowered his cudgel and broke into a smile. Everybody laughed.

As most of the locals were Tibetan and Hui, a Han-style meal was hard to find in the area. The only restaurant in the village that served food of Sichuan style was booming with business during the ceremony. Spicy fish, its speciality, was so delicious. What is more, the price was very reasonable: 20 to 30 yuan was enough for a very nice meal. Besides tourists, Lamas came too. The owner of the restaurant, a shrewd lady, had returned from her native home in Sichuan on the ninth for the perk during the ceremony. Amused by our hungry looks, she said in typical Sichuan dialect, "Come back next year and eat more!"

Translated by Li Guoqing ©



Facing page, top: At an order from the presiding lama, the veil on the *thangka* is being removed.

Facing page, bottom: Pious followers at the ceremony

Right: The team of lamas proceeding to the place of ceremony in a dignified manner

Paying Homage at the Yellow Emperor Mausoleum

PHOTOS BY YANG LIMIN • ARTICLE BY WANG JUCHUAN

Offering sacrifices to ancestors and finding their ancestral roots are an important part of the Chinese traditional culture which helps to continue the history of the Chinese nation and unify its spirit. For several thousands of years people, no matter whether they be emperors or commoners, live in the country or reside abroad, as long as Chinese blood runs through their veins they have come to pay homage at the Yellow Emperor Mausoleum, bowing their heads piously and reverently to the Yellow Emperor.

The Yellow Emperor Mausoleum is located in Huangling County in Shanxi Province, 188 kilometres north of the ancient capital city Xi'an. Although the area is surrounded by undulating mountain ranges and is criss-crossed with deep gullies, the Qiaoshan Hill has towering ancient pine and cypress trees growing on it making it look like "a green island" in the region. Throughout the four seasons people come here in endless streams to pay their respects to the Yellow Emperor especially during the Pure Brightness and the Double Ninth festivals when thousands of worshippers flock here.

According to historical records, the Yellow Emperor was surnamed Gongsun, named Xuan Yuan. Five thousand years ago he headed the tribe of Xia to start an expedition from Luoshan Mountain to the south. He crossed the Yellow River in the east to wage fierce battles at Zhuolu (in present-day Hebei Province) against Chi You of the Jiuli Tribe, fought among rivals for the throne and won one great victory after another. Finally he was chosen by all tribes as their leader. The Yellow Emperor created the written language, founded arithmetic, initiated the making of clothes, built boats and carts, manufactured bows and arrows, decided music temperament and invented the mechanism with a wooden figure always pointing to the south, thus started the brilliant ancient Chinese culture. For several thousand years he has been worshipped as the founder of Chinese culture.

Offering sacrifices to the Yellow Emperor at his mausoleum originated through folklore. Tradition has it that the Yellow Emperor flew away to be an "immortal" on the back of a dragon from the Qiaoshan Hill, afterwards all his subjects felt so deeply grieved that they buried all his personal effects and sat before the tomb relating his great deeds and achievements, offered daily necessities as sacrifices and played music to comfort his soul.



These sacrificial offerings gradually became a common practice among officials and emperors of following dynasties. In 220 B.C., on his tour of inspection, Qin Shihuang, the first emperor of China, stopped his carriage before the temple of the Yellow Emperor and offered sacrifices to the ancestor of the Chinese nation. Emperor Wudi, the founder of the Han Dynasty, ordered all his generals and men to carry earth with their hands to strengthen the Yellow Emperor Mausoleum. Emperors of subsequent dynasties like the Tang, Song, Yuan, Ming and Qing also presided over ceremonies paying homage to the Yellow Emperor Mausoleum. In 1912 Dr Sun Yat-sen personally wrote a poem in regard which runs: "China has been founded for five thousand years, and Xuan Yuan of the Divine Land has been praised since ancient times. He invented the vehicle with a wooden figure pointing to the south, and headed people to put down the rebels."

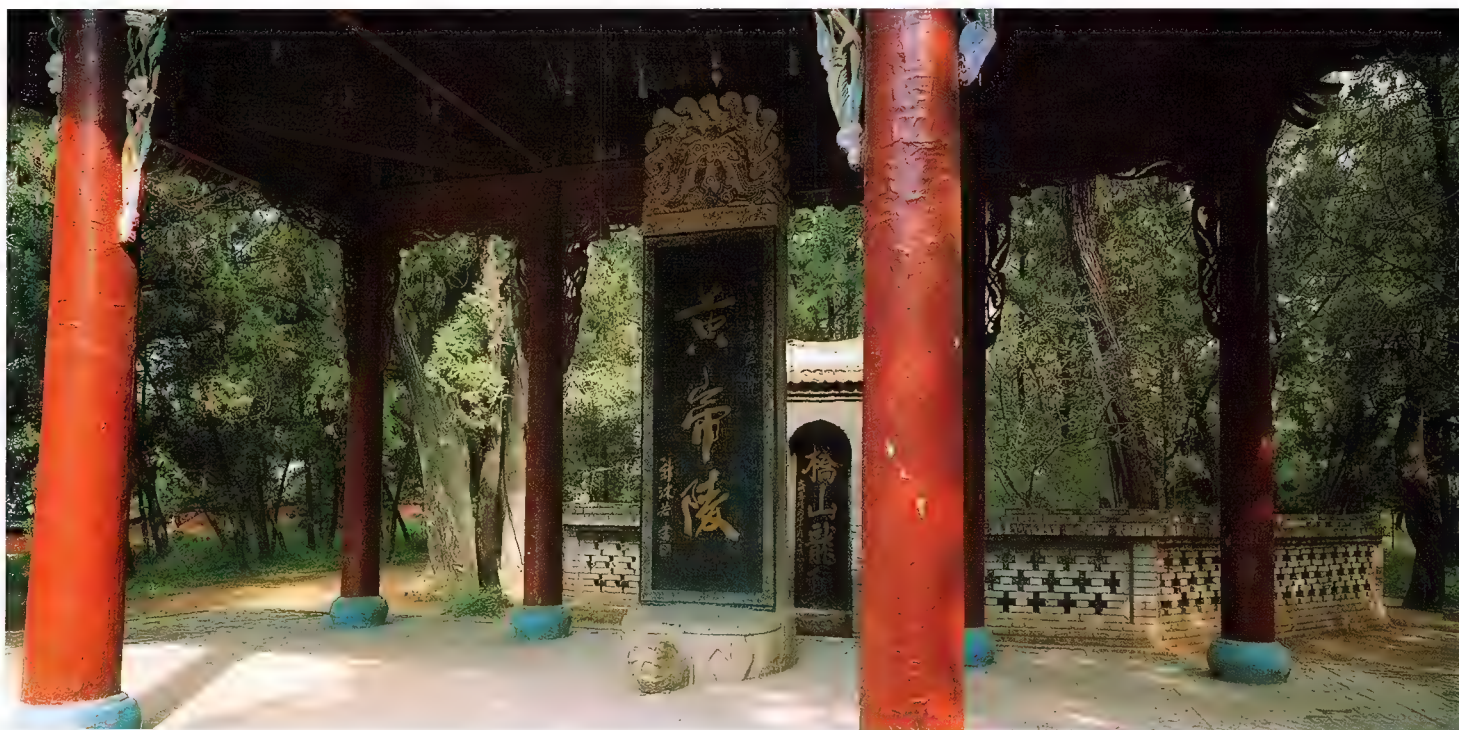
lion of Chi You. He made us rank first in the world's civilization."

When people come to pay homage to the Yellow Emperor Mausoleum they usually do it in this way: first a memorial ceremony is held at the temple, they pay their respects to the mausoleum and then they sweep the grave. Walking past the 250-metre-long square, across the 60-metre-long ancient stone bridge, climbing up stone steps 14-metre long carved with the patterns of dragon tales they then reach the Xuanyuan Temple. The temple, first built in the Han Dynasty, has a plaque above the gate of its main hall with the inscription: "The Founder of Chinese Culture". Inside the temple there are 16 ancient cypress trees known as "living cultural relics", among these one of them is believed to have been planted by the Yellow Emperor himself. It is 19.3 metres in height and 10 metres in girth and has been honoured as "The Father of the World's Cypresses". On another cypress tree there are still marks claimed to have been left by the Han-dynasty emperor Wudi when he hung up his suit of armour. The courtyard where sacrificial ceremonies are conducted consists of a gate hall, corridors, drum and bell tower and the memorial hall. The memorial hall is a square, nine-bayed building with a flat floor and a surrounding corridor, inside which the memorial tablet of the Yellow Emperor is enshrined. Here people place their offerings, burn incense and paper money, beat drums, play music, set off firecrackers and perform operas. The ceremonies are always solemn, pious, generous and colourful.



- 1. The relief stone carving of the Yellow Emperor enshrined in Xuanyuan Temple
- 2. A panoramic view of Qiaoshan Hill, the location of the Yellow Emperor Mausoleum. At the foot of the hill the Xuanyuan Temple is under extension.
- 3. The several thousand-year-old cypress is believed to have been planted by the Yellow Emperor himself.
- 4. The site is thronged with people on the sacrificial day every year.





When the ceremony is over, people pay their respects to the mausoleum. Holding burning incense and candles, they bow three times to the temple tower and then walk around the tomb. The flat, hemispherical tomb has a diameter of 18 metres. At its lower part is a square platform, which serves to set off the sacredness of the tomb. The tomb's square base and round top bespeak well of the ancient theory that the sky is round and the earth is square, symbolizing that Heaven and Earth match each other harmoniously.

With each passing year the activity of offering sacrifices to the Yellow Emperor by common people has gained momentum. Not only have local people joined the sacrificial ceremony each year, but also groups in other parts of the country have organized themselves spontaneously to take part in the activity. Once, a visiting group from the Taipei Folk Songs and Ballads of the Han and Tang Styles came to pay homage to the Yellow Emperor Mausoleum arriving at midnight on the Double Ninth Festival. Wearing Tang-style black ceremonial robes, they placed Taiwanese-grown day lilies, vermicelli made from bean starch, fresh ginger, mushrooms and Dragon-Beard noodles on the altar, as well as sacrificial offerings symbolizing the five elements of metal, wood, water, fire and earth. They also played sacrificial music there for five successive hours.

Translated by Xiong Zhenru



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1. The tomb and tombstone of the mausoleum (by Huang Jixian)
2. Worshippers from rural areas offer the Yellow Emperor dough models meticulously hand-made (by Ma Lingyun).
3. The horizontal board inscribed with "The Founder of Chinese Culture" hung above the main gate of the Xuanyuan Temple
4. The imitation sacrificial ceremony of Emperor Wudi and his generals and officials at the Yellow Emperor Mausoleum (by Zhang Lihua)



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156 rooms and suites

Located 15 km from airport, 7 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, exhibition hall, dance hall, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, florist, clinic, beauty salon, billiards, gym, massage, swimming pool, baby sitting, facilities for the handicapped

Luoyang Goddess Hotel

洛神大酒店



Boli Road South, Luoyang, Henan 471009

Tel: (0379) 3944868 Fax: (0379) 3935050

GM: Wang Wenbao

Opened 18 February 1995

200 rooms and suites

Located 9 km from airport, 3 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, exhibition hall, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, florist, clinic, beauty salon, sauna, billiards, gym, massage, baby sitting, steam bath, facilities for the handicapped

New Friendship Hotel

新友谊大酒店

6 Xiyuan Road, Luoyang, Henan 471003

Tel: (0379) 4913770 Fax: (0379) 4912328

GM: Li Guoshun

Opened April 93

168 rooms and suites

Located 15 km from airport, 7 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, exhibition hall, disco, karaoke,

shopping arcade, business centre, clinic, beauty salon, billiards, gym, massage, swimming pool, facilities for the handicapped

Peony Hotel

牡丹大酒店

15 Zhongzhou Road West, Luoyang, Henan 471003

Tel: (0379) 4913669 Fax: (0379) 4913668

Telex: (0379) 4973047 LYPN CN

GM: Hai Mengya

Opened April 1990

196 rooms and suites

Located 13 km from airport, 3 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurant, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, clinic, beauty salon, sauna, billiards, gym, massage, baby sitting, facilities for the handicapped

Xuan Gong Hotel

旋宫大厦



275 Zhongzhou Road Central, Luoyang, Henan 471000

Tel: (0379) 3931940 Fax: (0379) 3940914

GM: Zhang Lisha

Opened April 1988

333 rooms and suites

Located 8 km from airport, 1 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference rooms, exhibition hall, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, clinic, beauty salon, massage, swimming pool

Changsha, Hunan

Huatian Hotel

华天大酒店



16 Jiefang Road East, Changsha, Hunan 410001

Tel: (0731) 4442888 Fax: (0731) 4442270

315 rooms and suites

Located 23 km from airport, 1.5 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference rooms, dance hall, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, clinic, beauty salon, sauna, steam bath, billiards, gym, massage

Lotus Hotel

芙蓉宾馆

8 Wuyi Road East, Changsha, Hunan 410001

Tel: (0731) 4401888 Fax: (0731) 4445175

305 rooms and suites

Located 30 km from airport, 0.5 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, dance hall, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, florist, clinic, beauty salon, billiards, gym, massage, baby sitting

Xiangjiang Hotel

湘江宾馆



2 Zhongshan Road, Changsha, Hunan 410005

Tel: (0731) 4468888 Fax: (0731) 4448285

300 rooms and suites

Located 25 km from airport, 4 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, dance hall, karaoke, business centre, clinic, beauty salon, billiards

Xi'an, Shaanxi

Bell Tower Hotel

钟楼饭店

Southwest corner of Bell Tower, Xi'an, Shaanxi 710001

Tel: (029) 7278900 Fax: (029) 7218970

320 rooms and suites

Located 35 km from airport, 5 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, dance hall, shopping arcade, business centre, clinic, billiards, gym, massage, baby sitting, facilities for the handicapped

Dynasty Hotel

秦都酒店

55 North Section of Huancheng Road West, Xi'an, Shaanxi 710082

Tel: (029) 7212718 Fax: (029) 7212728

185 rooms and suites

Located 42.5 km from airport, 5 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, conference rooms, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, clinic, beauty salon, sauna, gym, massage

Golden Flower Hotel

金花酒店

8 Changle Road West, Xi'an, Shaanxi 710032

Tel: (029) 3232981 Fax: (029) 3235477

498 rooms and suites



Located 20 mins from airport, 10 mins from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, bars, conference rooms, banquet hall, shopping arcade, business centre, beauty salon, sauna, gym, swimming pool

Grand New World Hotel

古都新世界大酒店



48 Lianhu Road, Xi'an, Shaanxi 710002

Tel: (029) 7216868 Fax: (029) 7214222

467 rooms and suites

Located 4 km from airport, 3 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, exhibition hall, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, clinic, sauna, steam bath, billiards, gym, massage, swimming pool, tennis court, baby sitting, facilities for the handicapped

Jianguo Hotel

建國飯店

20 Jinhua Road South, Xi'an, Shaanxi 710048

Tel: (029) 3238888 Fax: (029) 3235145

843 rooms and suites

Located 20 km from airport, 5 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, exhibition hall, dance hall, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, clinic, beauty salon, sauna, billiards, gym, massage, swimming pool, steam bath, facilities for the handicapped

Jiefang Hotel

解放飯店

Railway Station Square, Xi'an, Shaanxi 710004

Tel: (029) 7212927 Fax: (029) 7212617

363 rooms and suites

Located 7 km from airport, 100 m from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, dance hall, disco, shopping arcade, business centre, clinic, billiards

Sheraton Xi'an Hotel

喜來登大酒店

12 Fenghao Road, Xi'an, Shaanxi 710077

Tel: (029) 4261888 Fax: (029) 4262983

450 rooms and suites

Located 45 km from airport, 7 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, dance hall, karaoke, shopping

arcade, business centre, beauty salon, sauna, billiards, gym, massage, swimming pool, baby sitting, steam bath, facilities for the handicapped

Tangcheng Hotel

唐城賓館

3 Lingyuan Road South, Xi'an, Shaanxi 710061

Tel: (029) 7255711 Fax: (029) 7251041

391 rooms and suites

Located 50 km from airport, 10 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, exhibition hall, dance hall, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, clinic, beauty salon, billiards, massage, baby sitting

Xi'an Garden Hotel

西安唐華賓館

4 Yanyin Road East, Dayanta, Xi'an, Shaanxi 710061

Tel: (029) 7251111 Fax: (029) 7251998

301 rooms and suites

Located 48 km from airport, 7 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, dance hall, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, clinic, beauty salon, sauna, gym, massage, baby sitting, steam bath, facilities for the handicapped

Xi'an Hotel

西安賓館



36 Chang'an Road North, Xi'an, Shaanxi 710061

(029) 5261351 Fax: (029) 5261796

545 rooms and suites

Located 50 km from airport, 6 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, exhibition hall, dance hall, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, florist, clinic, beauty salon, sauna, billiards, gym, massage, swimming pool, baby sitting, steam bath, facilities for the handicapped

Xi'an People's Hotel

西安人民大廈

319 Dongxin Street, Xi'an, Shaanxi 710004

Tel: (029) 7215111 Fax: (029) 7218152

584 rooms and suites

Located 46 km from airport, 2.5 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, exhibition hall, dance hall, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, florist, clinic, beauty salon, billiards, gym, massage, swimming pool, tennis court

Shanghai

City Hotel

城市酒店

5 Shaanxi Road South, Shanghai 200020

Tel: 62551133 Fax: 62550211

240 rooms and suites

Located 11 km from airport, 3.5 km from railway station



Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, shopping arcade, business centre, florist, clinic

Galaxy Hotel

上海銀河賓館

888 Zhongshan Road West, Shanghai 200051

Tel: 62755888 Telex: 33176 SGHRD CN

Fax: 62750201

GM: Zhu Suigen

Opened 15 October 1990

650 rooms and suites

Located 5 km from airport, 7 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, business centre, disco, karaoke, bowling, shopping arcade, beauty salon, gym, sauna

Garden Hotel Shanghai

花園飯店 (上海)



58 Maoming Road South Shanghai 200020

Tel: 64151111 Telex: 30157 GHSG CN

Fax: 64158866

Opened October 1989

500 rooms and suites

Located in the city centre, 14 km from airport, 4 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, exhibition hall, shopping arcade, florist, clinic, beauty salon, sauna, gym, massage, swimming pool, tennis court, baby sitting, facilities for the handicapped

Holiday Inn Yin Xing Shanghai

上海銀星假日酒店

388 Panyu Road, Shanghai 200052

Tel: 62528888 2402616 Telex: 30310 SFAC CN

Fax: 62528545

534 rooms and suites

Located minutes from the city centre 9 km from airport,
8 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, business
centre, meeting rooms, bar, coffee shop, karaoke,
fitness centre, swimming pool, squash, sauna, beauty
salon, baby sitting

Hotel Sofitel Hyland Shanghai

海倫賓館

505 Nanjing Road East, Shanghai 200001

Tel: 63205888 Telex: 30386 SHLSO CN

Fax: 63204088

389 rooms and suites

Located 17 km from airport, 4 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop,
bar, conference rooms, exhibition hall, karaoke,
shopping arcade, business centre, florist, clinic,
beauty salon, sauna, billiards, gym, massage, baby
sitting, steam bath, facilities for the handicapped

International Equatorial Hotel

國際赤道大酒店

65 Yan'an Road West, Shanghai 200040

Tel: 62481688 Telex: 33188 EQUAT CN

Fax: 62481773

GM: Claude Ricca

526 rooms and suites

Located 2 km from airport, 4 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese, Japanese and Western restaurants,
banquet hall, cafe, business centre, disco, karaoke,
beauty salon, clinic, gym, swimming pool, spa, sauna,
massage, tennis courts, squash, bowling alley, biliard
room

Jin Jiang Hotel

錦江飯店

59 Maoming Road South, Shanghai 200020

Tel: 62582582 62534242 Telex: 33380 GRJH CN

Fax: 64725588

GM: Jia Zhiyong

Opened June 1951

515 rooms and suites

Located 14 km from airport, 3 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, bar,
business centre, shopping arcade, beauty salon,
gym, tennis court, ballroom, sauna

Park Hotel

麗都飯店

170 Nanjing Road West, Shanghai 200003

Tel: 63275225 Telex: 33932 PARK CN

Fax: 63276958

GM: Jin Renjie

Opened December 1934

208 rooms and suites

Located 15 km from airport, 3 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet
hall, business centre, shopping arcade, beauty salon

Peace Hotel

和平飯店

20 Nanjing Road East, Shanghai 200002

Tel: 63216888 Telex: 33914 BTHPH CN

Fax: 63290300

GM: Wang Jiming

Opened 8 March 1956

420 rooms and suites

Located 18 km from airport, 5 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, bar,
business centre, billiards, shopping arcade, beauty
salon, gym, sauna

Rainbow Hotel

上海虹橋賓館

2000 Yan'an Road West, Shanghai 200051

Tel: 62753388 Telex: 30330 SRHF CN

Fax: 62753736 62757244

GM: Guo Rongsheng

Opened 8 August 1988

630 rooms and suites

Located 6 km from airport, 7.5 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee
shop, bar, conference rooms, business centre, disco,
karaoke, theatre, boating, bowling, tennis courts, golf
course, shopping arcade, sauna, steam bath,
facilities for the handicapped

Shanghai JC Mandarin

錦滄文華大酒店



1225 Nanjing Road West, Shanghai 200040

Tel: 62791888 Telex: 33939 SJCMC CN

Fax: 62791822

Opened 20 July 1990

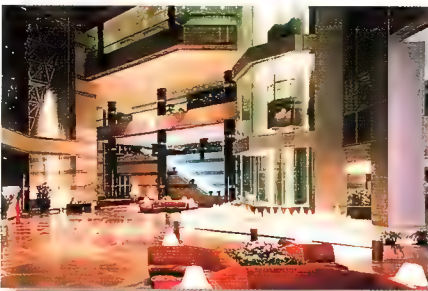
413 rooms and suites

Located 16 km from airport, 5 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee
shop, bar, conference rooms, business centre, baby
sitting, disco, karaoke, billiards, indoor swimming
pool, bowling, tennis court, squash, shopping
arcade, florist, clinic, beauty salon, gym, massage,
sauna, steam bath, facilities for the handicapped

Shanghai Jin Jiang Tower

上海新錦江大酒店



161 Changle Road, Shanghai 200020

Tel: 64151188 Telex: 30040 JJTBC CN

Fax: 64150048

GM: Yang Yuanping

Opened October 1990

728 rooms and suites

Located 14 km from airport, 3 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee
shop, bar, business centre, TV games centre,
swimming pool, shopping arcade, beauty salon,
gym, massage, sauna

Shanghai Lan Sheng Hotel

上海蘭生大酒店



1000 Quyang Road, Shanghai 200437

Tel: 65428000 Telex: 33952 REGBC CN

Fax: 65448400

GM: Yang Tai Rong

Opened 31 October 1991

417 rooms and suites

Located 25 km from airport, 8 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, food
street, business centre, conference room, ballroom,
gym, indoor golf, bowling, sauna, jacuzzi

Shanghai Pacific Hotel

上海金門大酒店

104 Nanjing Road West, Shanghai 200003

Tel: 63276226 Fax: 63723634

GM: Yu Jianmin

180 rooms and suites

Located 15 km from airport, 4 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, business
centre

Sheraton Hua Ting Hotel

華亭賓館



1200 Caoxi Road North, Shanghai 200030

Tel: 64391000 64396000

Telex: 33589 SHHTH CN

Fax: 62550830
 GM: Morrison Grant
 Opened 29 November 1986
 820 rooms and suites

Located 12 km from airport, 15 km from railway station
 Facilities: Chinese and Italian restaurants, coffee shop, bars, banquet hall, business centre, disco, swimming pool, bowling, billiards, tennis courts, shopping arcade, beauty salon, gym, massage, sauna

Tai Ping Yang Westin Hotel

上海太平洋大飯店
 5 Zunyi Road South, Shanghai 200335
 Tel: 62758888 Telex: 33345 PASHC CN
 Fax: 62755420

MD: Andre G. Rolli
 Opened 3 September 1990
 578 rooms and suites
 Located in the Hongqiao Development Zone, less than 7 km from downtown, 6.8 km from airport, 8 km from railway station
 Facilities: Chinese, Japanese and Western restaurants, business centre, shopping arcade, ballroom, function rooms, health club

YMCA Hotel

錦江青年會賓館
 123 Xizang Road South, Shanghai 200021
 Tel: 63261040 Telex: 33920 QNHSN CN
 Fax: 63201957

GM: Fu Yirong
 Opened September 1984
 165 rooms and suites
 Located 15 km from airport, 3 km from railway station
 Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, banquet hall, business centre, dance hall, karaoke, shopping arcade, beauty salon, gym, massage, sauna

Yangtze New World Hotel

上海楊子江大酒店

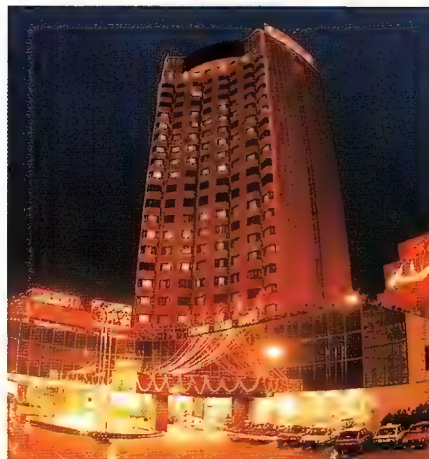


2099 Yan'an Road West, Shanghai 200335
 Tel: 62750000 Telex: 33675 YNWHN CN
 Fax: 62750750
 Opened 18 March 1991
 570 rooms and suites
 Located 6.8 km from airport, 8 km from railway station, 12 km from the Bund
 Facilities: Chinese, Western and Southeast Asian restaurants, bars, business centre, shopping arcade, gym, disco, karaoke, sauna

Chengdu, Sichuan

Chengdu Grand Hotel

成都大酒店



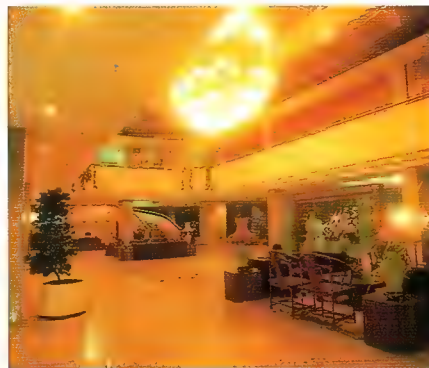
29 Section 2, Renmin Road North, Chengdu, Sichuan 610081

Tel: 3333888 Telex: 600349 CHDGH CN
 Fax: 336818

GM: Wang Zize
 Opened 8 October 1990
 456 rooms and 12 suites
 Located 20 km from airport, 200 m from railway station
 Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference rooms, business centre, karaoke, dance hall, beauty salon, gym, shopping arcade, massage, bar

Chengdu Hotel

成都飯店



East Section of Shudu Road, Chengdu, Sichuan 610066

Tel: 4444112, 4448888 Fax: 441603
 Telex: 60164 CDHOT CN, 600077 CHMKT CN
 Opened 18 May 1984
 310 rooms

Located 15 km from airport, 5 km from railway station
 Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, bar, conference hall, business centre, swimming pool, tennis court, billiard room, gym, sauna, massage, clinic, karaoke, disco, coffee shop, function rooms

Jinhe Grand Hotel

金河大酒店

18 Jinhe Street, Chengdu, Sichuan 610031
 Tel: 6642888 Telex: 600341 JHHTL CN
 Fax: (028) 632037

GM: Long Guanyin
 Opened 15 April 1991
 400 rooms and 8 suites
 Located 18 km from airport, 7 km from railway station
 Facilities: Revolving restaurant, banquet hall, bar, conference rooms, karaoke, disco, dance hall, business centre, billiard room

Jinjiang Hotel

錦江賓館

80 Section 2, Renmin Road South, Chengdu, Sichuan 610014

Tel: 5582222 Telex: 60109 JJH CN
 Fax: 5582348

GM: Luo Lixian
 Opened May 1960
 523 rooms and suites
 Located 17 km from airport, 5 km from railway station
 Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, bar, conference halls, banquet hall, shopping arcade, nightclub, KTV, billiards, sauna, massage, swimming pool, tennis court, gym, bowling

Minshan Hotel

岷山飯店



55 Section 2, Renmin Road South, Chengdu, Sichuan 610021

Tel: 5583333 Telex: 60247 MSH CN
 Fax: 5582154

GM: Li Li
 Opened 18 January 1988
 422 rooms and suites
 Located 7 km from airport, 2 km from railway station
 Facilities: Chinese, Western and Japanese restaurants, banquet hall, conference hall, business centre, shopping arcade, nightclub, karaoke, swimming pool, beauty salon, sauna

Tibet Hotel

西藏飯店

10 Renmin Road North, Chengdu, Sichuan 610081

Tel: 3333988 Telex: 60309 THC CN
 Fax: 3333526

GM: He Shengqiu
 Opened 18 February 1988
 359 rooms and suites
 Located 22 km from airport, 1 km from railway station
 Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, business centre, shopping arcade, karaoke, beauty salon, massage, recreation centre

Zhufeng Hotel

珠峰賓館

107 Shangxi Shuncheng Street, Chengdu, Sichuan 610015


Tel: 6662441 Telex: 600023 ZHGHG CN
 Fax: 671717

Opened 15 March 1988
 270 rooms
 Located 20 km from airport, 4 km from railway station
 Facilities: Chinese restaurants, banquet hall, business centre, bar, karaoke, disco, billiard room, shopping arcade, beauty salon

Pack Baskets of Western Hunan

With geographical features similar to eastern Sichuan, high mountains are a common sight in western Hunan. Since vehicles nor bicycles are of use here, local people have cultivated the use of carrying bamboo woven baskets as a means of transporting goods. They carry these baskets on their back wherever they go.

The use of the pack basket varies. The most commonly seen are called *cai* and *qiang*, the former used for carrying small, light articles, and the latter for larger, heavier items. Another type named *zhan* (standing) is specially made for carrying babies when on an outing. Placed on the ground it can also serve as a sitting pen, hence it is known as a baby basket in some areas.

In terms of artistic taste the slim basket can be considered the best. Exquisitely made with very thin, narrow bamboo strips in yellow, red and black check, it is used among city and town residents when shopping, and villagers carry it to market fairs or when they visit their relatives in town. It is said that this type of basket is also an indispensable dowry piece for local girls when getting married. 

Photos by Chan Yat Nin
Text by K.V. Ku



1. Large-size pack baskets
2. A "zhan" for carrying babies (by Tai Chi Yin)
3. A slim basket
4. As a means of transport to market fairs

Climatic Conditions in Gansu, Henan, Hunan, Shaanxi, Shanghai and Sichuan

			Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Gansu	Lanzhou	Temperature (°C)	-6.9	-2.3	5.2	11.8	16.6	20.3	22.2	21.0	15.8	9.4	1.7	-5.5
		Rainfall (mm)	1.4	2.4	8.3	17.4	36.2	32.5	63.8	85.3	49.1	24.7	5.4	1.3
Henan	Luoyang	Temperature (°C)	0.3	2.7	8.6	15.4	21.3	26.6	27.5	26.2	21.2	15.3	8.3	2.3
		Rainfall (mm)	6.9	12.5	25.4	45.1	47.0	66.3	141.5	95.8	74.7	46.0	30.6	9.3
Hunan	Changsha	Temperature (°C)	4.7	6.2	10.9	16.8	21.6	25.9	29.3	28.7	24.2	18.5	12.5	7.1
		Rainfall (mm)	59.1	87.8	139.8	201.6	230.8	188.9	112.5	116.9	62.7	81.4	63.0	51.5
	Cili	Temperature (°C)	4.8	6.2	11.0	16.6	21.2	25.3	28.5	27.8	23.1	17.8	12.0	7.1
		Rainfall (mm)	31.2	42.9	81.4	161.7	205.8	218.1	193.9	177.0	100.8	98.6	59.6	33.8
	Fenghuang	Temperature (°C)	4.5	5.7	10.4	15.9	20.2	24.0	27.0	26.4	22.4	16.8	11.4	6.7
		Rainfall (mm)	37.7	52.2	79.1	164.0	221.1	182.3	138.3	140.0	75.5	111.2	75.5	36.2
	Jishou	Temperature (°C)	5.0	6.3	11.0	16.4	20.6	24.4	27.4	26.9	22.9	17.3	11.9	7.2
		Rainfall (mm)	39.8	51.5	86.3	172.3	232.7	212.4	178.0	156.2	88.0	114.6	71.7	36.8
	Sangzhi	Temperature (°C)	4.8	6.2	10.9	16.4	20.8	24.4	27.3	26.9	22.7	17.4	11.7	6.9
		Rainfall (mm)	22.4	36.1	75.1	151.6	213.7	248.5	196.0	170.1	110.8	112.0	59.5	30.8
	Yongshun	Temperature (°C)	4.8	6.3	11.1	16.5	20.5	24.3	27.3	26.8	22.7	17.3	11.8	7.0
		Rainfall (mm)	25.7	37.2	72.4	145.2	206.0	229.2	200.8	151.3	108.8	107.3	64.8	31.4
Shaanxi	Xi'an	Temperature (°C)	5.1	6.4	11.2	16.7	20.9	24.8	28.0	27.5	23.1	17.8	12.2	7.4
		Rainfall (mm)	31.3	44.5	81.9	157.0	212.0	236.2	183.0	145.0	94.8	99.6	61.6	35.3
Shanghai		Temperature (°C)	-1.0	2.1	8.1	14.1	19.1	25.2	26.6	25.5	19.4	13.7	6.6	0.7
		Rainfall (mm)	7.6	10.6	24.6	52.0	63.2	52.2	99.4	71.7	98.3	62.4	31.5	6.7
Sichuan	Chengdu	Temperature (°C)	3.5	4.6	8.3	14.0	18.8	23.3	27.8	27.7	23.6	18.0	12.3	6.2
		Rainfall (mm)	44.0	62.6	78.1	106.7	122.9	158.9	134.2	126.0	150.5	50.1	48.8	40.9
	Leshan	Temperature (°C)	5.5	7.5	12.1	17.0	20.9	23.7	25.6	25.1	21.2	16.8	11.9	7.3
		Rainfall (mm)	5.9	10.9	21.4	50.7	88.6	111.3	235.5	234.1	118.0	46.4	18.4	5.8
		Temperature (°C)	7.1	8.8	13.5	18.2	21.6	23.8	26.0	25.6	22.0	17.4	13.2	8.8
		Rainfall (mm)	13.4	26.8	41.1	82.6	137.8	168.9	33.5	311.9	148.1	85.2	36.9	15.3

Train Schedules

Xining — Lanzhou — Xi'an — Zhengzhou — Nanjing — Shanghai — Hangzhou

188/185 F.T.	178/175 F.T.	140/137 F.T.	105/108 F.T.	Train Station	No.	106/107 F.T.	139/138 F.T.	177/176 F.T.	187/186 F.T.
	16:30			Xining				20:18	
	18:50			Haishiwan				17:45	
10:38	21:14			Lanzhou				15:23	
14:38	02:07			Longxi				10:12	16:58
17:50	06:01			Tianshui				06:41	13:20
21:38	10:42			Baoji				02:16	10:10
22:59	12:10			Wugong				00:26	08:14
00:28	13:37	20:30	20:40	Xi'an		20:10	07:40	22:56	07:07
02:27	15:42	22:38	11:49	Mengyuan		18:04	05:37	20:50	04:46
04:55	18:10	01:26	14:29	Sanmenxia		15:26	03:00	18:22	01:24
07:26	20:26	03:35	16:30	Luoyang		13:03	00:52	16:24	23:26
09:58	22:42	05:39	18:52	Zhengzhou		10:39	22:51	14:08	21:09
11:00	23:44	06:41	19:52	Kaifeng		09:25	21:40	12:55	19:52
12:58	01:42	08:51	22:04	Shangqiu		07:22	19:37	11:05	17:57
15:25	04:11	11:20	00:48	Xuzhou		05:03	17:03	08:36	15:35
18:01	06:55	14:00	04:03	Bengbu		02:19	14:25	05:58	12:47
19:57	09:05	15:44	05:58	Chuzhou		23:53	12:31	04:06	10:48
-	10:10	16:49	07:03	Nanjing		22:43	11:33	03:13	09:35
22:02	-	-	-	Nanjing West		-	-	-	09:09
	11:15	17:49	07:59	Zhenjiang		21:31	10:28	02:01	
	13:07	19:48	10:27	Wuxi		19:01	08:37	00:22	
	13:50	20:30	11:08	Suzhou		18:16	07:44	23:32	
	15:12	21:42	-	Shanghai		-	06:22	22:07	
			12:32	Shanghai West		16:57			
			13:23	Songjiang		15:34			
			14:50	Jiading		14:20			
			16:37	Hangzhou		12:30			

F.T. — Fast through passenger train

Train Schedules Beijing — Zhengzhou — Changsha — Guangzhou — Nanning

47 Exp.	29 Exp.	15 Exp.	5 Exp.	1 Exp.	Train Station No.	2 Exp.	6 Exp.	16 Exp.	30 Exp.	48 Exp.
19:26	22:25	00:29	23:27	09:01	Beijing	20:22	09:14	04:30	06:00	08:49
21:22	—	—	—	—	Baoding	—	—	—	—	06:55
23:06	01:57	03:57	02:54	12:28	Shijiazhuang	17:02	05:58	01:14	02:44	05:18
—	—	—	—	14:25	Handan	14:51	—	—	—	—
02:05	—	—	—	15:27	Anyang	14:02	—	—	—	02:18
04:36	06:56	08:56	07:53	18:11	Zhengzhou	11:17	00:53	21:10	21:40	23:48
08:33	10:53	12:53	11:50	22:13	Xinyang	07:09	20:53	16:10	17:40	19:48
12:19	14:21	16:21	15:34	02:01	Wuchang	03:09	16:56	12:29	13:59	15:51
17:39	19:27	21:41	20:56	07:13	Changsha	21:50	11:42	07:15	08:59	10:37
20:46	22:21	00:35	23:49		Hengyang		08:46	04:19	06:03	07:22
01:51	03:20	05:36	—		Shaoguan		—	23:21	01:07	02:28
04:57	06:29	08:45	—		Guangzhou		—	20:00	21:46	23:06
			05:59		Guilin		02:12			
			09:12		Liuzhou		23:07			
			12:45		Nanning		18:49			

Exp. — Express train

Train Schedules Tianjin — Xi'an

261 Exp.	Train Station No.	262 Exp.
10:18	Tianjin	15:04
11:23	Jinghai	13:55
12:35	Cangzhou	12:53
14:56	Dezhou	10:59
16:05	Hengshui	09:44
18:27	Shijiazhuang North	07:51
21:11	Yangquan	05:14
00:19	Taiyuan	02:31
02:46	Jiexiu	00:01
05:16	Linfen	21:26
07:45	Yuncheng	18:52
09:16	Fenglingdu	17:12
10:04	Mengyuan	16:39
11:05	Weinan	15:24
12:05	Xi'an	14:20

Train Schedules Shanghai — Guiyang — Chongqing

151 F.T.	71/74 F.T.	Train Station No.	72/73 F.T.	152 F.T.
11:25	17:40	Shanghai	12:20	07:00
15:10	20:52	Hangzhou East	09:12	03:26
19:10	00:35	Jinhua	05:14	23:31
02:44	07:04	Yingtian	22:52	15:44
12:20	15:29	Zhuzhou	14:12	05:46
13:12	16:10	Xiangtan	13:20	04:54
22:54	00:42	Huaihua	04:54	19:40
01:07	02:55	Yuping	02:50	17:31
04:21	05:54	Kaili	23:53	14:31
06:42	—	Guiding	—	12:33
08:27	09:41	Guiyang	20:18	10:48
	13:06	Zunyi	16:46	
	17:56	Qijiang	12:14	
	19:48	Chongqing	10:11	

Train Schedules Beijing — Lanzhou

43 F.T.	Train Station No.	44 F.T.
11:01	Beijing	19:50
18:35	Datong	12:15
23:14	Hohhot	07:26
01:58	Baotou	04:41
04:39	Wuyuan	01:59
08:00	Wuhai	22:44
09:09	Shizuishan	21:40
11:10	Yinchuan	19:41
16:22	Gantang	15:02
21:18	Lanzhou	09:58

Train Schedules Beijing — Lanzhou — Xining

75 Exp.	69 Exp.	Train Station No.	70 Exp.	76 Exp.
09:22	21:24	Beijing	14:40	05:00
13:02	00:51	Shijiazhuang	11:20	01:24
16:13	03:38	Anyang	08:32	21:57
19:03	06:20	Zhengzhou	05:49	19:12
21:03	08:20	Luoyang	03:47	17:10
23:31	10:48	Sanmenxia West	01:23	14:46
03:16	14:22	Xi'an	21:47	10:59
12:22	22:55	Longxi	12:15	00:51
16:43	02:31	Lanzhou	08:18	20:29
21:26	—	Xining	—	15:52
	To Urümqi		From Urümqi	

Train Schedules Shanghai — Chengdu

190/191 F.T.	Train Station	No.	189/192 F.T.
13:50	Shanghai		10:46
15:00	Suzhou		09:34
18:49	Nanjing		05:37
21:54	Bengbu		02:51
00:32	Xuzhou		23:59
02:47	Shangqiu		21:31
04:37	Kaifeng		19:33
05:56	Zhengzhou		18:29
08:38	Luoyang		15:57
10:41	Sanmenxia		13:43
13:18	Mengyuan		11:15
15:22	Xi'an		09:17
15:52	Xianyang		08:41
18:38	Baoji		06:37
07:05	Mianyang		17:30
07:58	Deyang		16:34
09:04	Chengdu		15:23

Train Schedules Shanghai — Chengdu

182/183 F.T.	Train Station	No.	181/184 F.T.
20:41	Shanghai		07:42
21:54	Suzhou		06:32
01:33	Nanjing		02:45
04:10	Bengbu		23:54
06:31	Xuzhou		21:21
08:54	Shangqiu		18:51
10:44	Kaifeng		16:53
12:02	Zhengzhou		15:51
14:15	Luoyang		13:39
16:50	Baofeng		11:03
21:17	Xiangfan		06:41
00:39	Shiyan		02:44
04:15	Ankang		22:57
09:10	Hanzhong		18:32
21:22	Deyang		09:23
22:22	Chengdu		08:03

Train Schedules Zhangjiajie — Guangzhou

25/28 Exp.	Train Station	No.	26/27 Exp.
16:25	Zhangjiajie		13:13
18:10	Mengdonghe		11:39
19:27	Jishou		10:28
21:47	Huaihua		08:13
00:16	Dizhuang		05:28
02:42	Lengshuijiang East		03:07
04:10	Loudi		01:25
06:10	Xiangtan		23:33
07:42	Changsha		22:16
08:49	Zhuzhou		20:55
10:55	Hengyang		18:47
13:21	Chenzhou		16:13
16:10	Shaoguan		13:36
19:18	Guangzhou		10:10

Train Schedules Chengdu — Leshan

541 O.	Train Station	No.	542 O.
09:50	Chengdu		17:40
10:28	Chengdu South		17:08
10:43	Shuangliu		16:49
10:57	Gongxing		16:32
11:15	Xinjin		16:01
11:33	Qinglongchang		15:41
11:47	Pengshan		15:21
11:58	Taihe		15:06
12:12	Meishan		14:39
12:36	Simeng		14:11
12:53	Wuchang		13:54
13:07	Macun		13:40
13:16	Leshan		13:21
To Puhong			From Puhong

O. — Ordinary train

Train Schedules Beijing — Chengdu

7 Exp.	Train Station	No.	8 Exp.
23:15	Beijing		17:28
02:42	Shijiazhuang		14:12
07:41	Zhengzhou		09:08
09:41	Luoyang		07:06
12:09	Sanmenxia West		04:42
15:43	Xi'an		01:06
18:23	Baoji		22:30
—	Qinling		21:16
20:30	Fengzhou		20:24
22:51	Lüeyang		—
01:53	Guangyuan		14:58
05:28	Mianyang		11:08
07:13	Chengdu		09:15

Train Schedules Xi'an — Guangzhou

43/46 Exp.	Train Station	No.	44/45 Exp.
11:32	Xi'an		17:38
15:19	Sanmenxia West		14:16
17:43	Luoyang		11:48
23:57	Xinyang		05:44
03:10	Hankou		02:23
03:45	Wuchang		01:44
06:58	Yueyang		22:33
09:08	Changsha		20:28
12:23	Hengyang		17:19
17:29	Shaoguan		12:12
20:39	Guangzhou		08:51

TOURIST INFORMATION

Forest Park in Fuzhou

A forest park has opened in Sanming, in Fujian Province featuring the valuable tree *castanopsis* named after Kawakamii Kayata, a forestry expert who first discovered the tree more than one century ago. Situated 20 kilometres from the city of Fuzhou the 1,000-hectare forest park includes wildlife, several species of plants, as well as tourist facilities offering fishing, motor boating, camping and adventure tours.

New Road to Mount Tai

With an investment of US\$602,000 a 3.4-kilometre highway will soon be completed providing easy access to Mount Tai, a famous scenic spot in Shandong Province. Located in the western part of the mountain it will link the No. 104 State Highway with the cable station.

Sanya Buddhist Culture Zone

Construction of a Buddhist culture zone has begun in Sanya, Hainan Province. Located at the foot of Mount Nanshan, the 166-hectare zone containing temples, caves and a Buddhist college is expected to attract Buddhists from all over Southeast Asia.

New Zhengzhou Travel Route

Central China's Henan Province has developed a new travel route along the Yellow River extending from Zhengzhou, the provincial capital, to the Sanmen Gorge via the ancient capitals of Kaifeng and Luoyang and three areas of historical importance: Anyang, Xuchang and Nanyang where large numbers of relics from the Shang Dynasty (c. 16th-11th century B.C.) and the Three Kingdom Period (220-280 A.D.) have been unearthed.

Rich in history, the province boasts more than 30,000 cultural relic attractions and nearly 1.3 million relics in its museums. Also planned for the future are 10 to 20 new scenic spots along with improved facilities for the sites.

Guiyang's Open-Air Museum

The Hongya Site, Guizhou Province, seven kilometres from the famous Huangguoshu Waterfalls is to become an open-air museum. The site has remained a mystery as generations of Chinese scholars have been unable to decipher the carvings left by ancient people on Mount Shaijia in the Guanling Bouyei and Miao Autonomous County, however, overseas scholars have become interested and are now joining up with Chinese experts in an effort to decipher the carvings.

Opened to the public at the beginning of the year it is already drawing large numbers of tourists for whom new roads, pavilions and other tourist facilities are being developed.

Ürümqi Travel Route to Open

A new tourist route will open to travelers this spring in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region to be called the "World Wonder Route". It will cover scenic spots such as Tianchi (Heavenly Lake) in the Tianshan Mountains, Huoyan (Flaming) Mountain, Karez Wells, the mosque in Turpan, ancient cities in Jiaohe and Gaochang, the Taklimakan Desert and the grape corridor in Hotan. The route encompasses a wealth of cultural relics, desert, rare animals and plants, unique mountain landscapes and local customs. Xinjiang is speeding up construction work to improve transportation and tourist facilities.

Luxury Trains to Huangshan Mountain

Three pairs of luxury tourist trains now link Huangshan Mountain in Hefei, Anhui Province with the southern cities of Guangzhou, Shanghai and Nanjing. Railway and air access has only recently been available in this area and this constitutes the latest move by the Huangshan City Government to promote tourism in east China.

Ningbo's Pleasure Boat

Yongjiang, a 1,000-DWT (dead weight tonnage) luxury pleasure boat commenced service in Ningbo, Zhejiang Province and marks the debut of the cruise ship tourism industry for the province. Costing US\$2.4 million the boat is equipped with cable TV, sophisticated sound systems, restaurants, bars, dance halls, karaoke bars, beauty salon and medical centre. *Yongjiang* already serves a tourist centre on Taohua Island.

Scenic West Lake Improves

With an average of 41,095 visitors per day the world-famous West Lake of Hangzhou in Zhejiang Province is poised to become an even lovelier tourist attraction. Since 1984 the city's government has been developing and renovating the area, designating a green belt around the lake thereby boosting the total scenic area to 50.1 hectares. Containing as many as 94 scenic sights, over 40 tourist spots have so far been renovated, including the re-opened Ten Sights of the West Lake. New attractions include a Lakeside Park, Children's Palace Square, China Grottoes Art Park, China Ancient Pagoda Exhibition Garden as well as memorial halls for famed historical figures such as General Yue Fei and poet Su Shi of the Song Dynasty.

Qinling Nature Reserve

Hidden in the middle of the Qinling Mountains the Changqing Nature Reserve in northwestern China's Shaanxi Province has been raised to a State-level nature reserve. Covering 29,906 hectares the reserve has been established to protect the endangered Giant Panda and its natural habitats, presently scattered around the Qinling Mountains. It is hoped that by uniting its habitats the pandas will thrive in the reserve.

AIRLINE UPDATES

New Route to Japan

A new air route between Xi'an, Shaanxi Province and Hiroshima, Japan was opened recently by Northwest China Airlines. The 2,400-kilometre journey takes four hours and is hoped to follow the success of the Xi'an-Nagoya air route.

New Sanya Flights

Sanya, in Hainan Province, has its first tourism charter flight with the start of Beiya Airline flights to Singapore offering the first international flight route from Hainan since Fenghuang International Airport became operational. Other flights from Sanya are planned to Seoul, Osaka, Hong Kong and Macau.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES

Suzhou's History Revealed

A large number of jades and bronzes were found recently in ancient tombs at Mount Zhenshan, Suzhou, Wuxian County believed to have been buried during the Spring and Autumn Period (770-476 B.C.), the Warring States Period (475-221 B.C.) and the Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-A.D. 220). Archaeologists believe that the thousands of natural and jade cowries found in a lacquer box were the first currency of the State of Wu. In another tomb invaluable relics including two bronze daggers, axes and a famous bronze seal were found belonging to Chunshen Jun, a well-known counsellor in the Warring States Period. His tomb is now the largest grave found in southern Jiangsu Province. The discovery of the tombs is unique in that it disproves the traditional theory that there were no tombs in the western part of Wuxian County. The mounds were originally discovered in 1992 during excavation works on the mountain.

Rhinoceros Fossil Unearthed in Hubei Province

A huge ancient rhinoceros skeleton has been discovered by a farmer from the silt of a cave at Shennongjia Preserve in Hubei Province. According to archaeologists in Wuhan who have studied parts of the five-metre-long remains, the rhinoceros belongs to an ancient animal group of the Pleistocene and provides the first evidence that rhinoceros once lived in this area.

Tang Tablets Found in Chengdu

Some 160 tablets each measuring 80 centimetres long, 40 centimetres wide and

four centimetres thick were found by a local farmer piled against a cave wall located 1,250 metres above sea level on Mount Lingyan near the city of Dujiangyan, Sichuan Province. Archaeologists believe that they date back to the early Tang Dynasty (618-907) and say they are fine examples of carvings bearing a variety of inscriptions from the Buddhist classics.

Han-Dynasty Tomb Found

Archaeologists have found a large, 1,800-year-old tomb carved into a cliff at the foot of Yuanbao Mountain in Santai County, Sichuan Province. The 15.4-metre-long tomb has a doorway leading to three chambers with relief sculptures on the ceiling, walls and pillars. Experts believe that it was built during the reign of Emperor Yonghe (136-141) in the Eastern Han Dynasty.



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Hangzhou's Silk Market

A 20-hectare "silk city" in Hangzhou has been listed among the city's priority investment projects during the next five years with investments estimated at US\$120 million. Hangzhou is considered the largest specialized silk market in China and in 1995 the market realized a total business volume of US\$307 million. During the first two months of this year, business volume reached US\$42.2 million, an increase of over 20 per cent from the same period last year. There are now at least 600 State-owned, collective and township enterprises displaying more than 2,000 silk products in the market.

EVENTS

Bioscience Expo, Beijing

The '96 Beijing International Bio-Technology Exhibition to be held in Beijing in July will display China's latest developments in bio-technology and bio-industry. Sponsored by seven bio-technology associations, the exhibition will also feature foreign advanced bio-technologies, products, equipment and the application of bio-technologies in the agricultural, food and energy industries and in environmental protection.

TRANSPORTATION

Sino-Vietnamese Rail Re-Opens

After 17 years Sino-Vietnamese cross-border rail links have been re-opened. To mark the occasion a railway line linking southwest Yunnan Province with its neighbouring Vietnamese Province has resumed operations involving an investment of US\$3.6 million for renovation and construction work. Its handling capacity is expected to increase from its current 1.5 million tons to 5 million tons annually.

Jiangsu Ports

Nanjing, Jiangsu Province is to build three port complexes along its 1,000-kilometre coastline over the next few years in order to meet demands for its expanding capacity. Designated sites are Lianyungang, Guanhokou and Zhongshan in the north; Wanggang and Sheyang in the centre; and Nantong, Lusi and Yangkou in the south.

Over the next five years the province will also build two 5,000-ton berths at Wanggang Port, a 2.4 million-kilowatt power plant at Yangkou Port, a petrochemical production base at Lusi and a 1.2 million-kilowatt power plant at Chenjiagang.

BANKING & FINANCE

Beijing Welcomes Foreign Banks

Beijing is to allow more overseas financial institutions to set up representative offices as a way to further open its financial sector in 1996. Since 1980 more than 214 overseas banks, including Japan's Bank of Tokyo, the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corp, CitiBank of the United States and Nanyang Commercial Bank Ltd from Hong Kong, have set up in Beijing. It is hoped that exposure to overseas banks' expertise and experience will upgrade the management of domestic banks as well as produce introductions to potential overseas companies and investors. A specialized division of the Beijing Branch of the People's Bank of China is to serve as the watchdog on foreign financial institutions.

Beijing's New Targets for Foreign Investment

Last year, Beijing approved 1,552 foreign-funded enterprises and used US\$1.4 billion of direct foreign investment, this year Beijing is aiming at 1,000 and US\$1.2 billion respectively. So far this year investments from the United States, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, Hong Kong and the European Community have totalled 72 new joint ventures or foreign funded enterprises with an investment of US\$180 million.

Priority use of the overseas funds are to be used for infrastructure development, industrial restructuring, housing construction and renovation, high-tech industries, agriculture and service industries. Beijing

is particularly keen to develop high-tech industries such as electronic information, biological engineering and pharmaceuticals, technology-intensive industries such as car manufacture and electronics, and metallurgy, chemicals and building materials.

In return Beijing has said it will rectify restrictive practices which adversely effect foreign-funded firms and further improve education and medical conditions for the dependents of overseas investors in Beijing.

Guangzhou Seeks Foreign Funds

Guangzhou is looking for US\$14.5 billion of overseas capital to aid its economic development over the next five years. Construction projects such as subsequent phases of the Guangzhou Metro, a new international airport, Huangcheng Expressway, Guangzhou Port, two elevated railways, power and water plants and city development along the Pearl River should help to attract investors. In addition a series of foreign trade and economic fairs have been held in Guangzhou and Hong Kong, and in Japan and South Korea in October. Commercial trade centres have also been set up in major cities such as New York, Miami, San Francisco, Sydney, Moscow, Kuala Lumpur and Bangkok. These centres will serve to attract investment as well as act as a showcase for Guangzhou's products.

People's Construction Bank Opens in Frankfurt

The People's Construction Bank of China (PCBC), one of the largest State-owned commercial banks in the country, opened a representative office in Frankfurt earlier this year and has established agent ties with 24 German banks and signed 11 loan agreements on the borrowing of DM854 million (US\$577.02 million). At the same time German enterprises also hold a strong interest in investing in China and PCBC has provided both Chinese currency and foreign exchange loans to the China businesses of some leading firms such as Volkswagen, Siemens, and Wang.

This is the bank's second European office following one in London. A branch has also been established in Hong Kong with offices in Tokyo, Singapore and Seoul.

NEXT ISSUE

A Solo Motorcycle Trip to Huangcheng Grassland



Adventure into Demon's Ravine, Kuqa Valley



A Study Tour to the Hometown of Confucius

It is said that anyone wishing to understand China's history and culture must begin with Confucius (551-479 B.C.) and so next month we feature a Study Tour to the hometown of Confucius in Qufu, Shandong Province. The tour takes in the expansive Confucius Mansion which dominates the town with its maze of 450 halls and buildings; the Confucius Temple displaying the teachings of this wise old sage and the Confucius Forest where 20,000 cypress trees have been planted by his followers and where Confucius himself and his family are buried. The forest earns acclaim as being the oldest and largest family burial ground in China.

Moving northwest, to the demonic landscape of Kuqa Valley known as Demon's Ravine in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region to the south of the mighty Tianshan Mountains. Years of dry, high winds have whipped the drab russet-coloured rocks into razor sharp ridges resembling the bellows of an accordion. Then, with a complete change of mood, we roar full speed to Gansu Province where our reporter brings us tales of his solo motor bike travels as he cruises through adventurous mountain paths.

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- 106 Qinghai Special
- 107 Pearl River Delta
- 108 Yunnan's Hengduan Range

Bound Volume #18

- 109 China-wide Special

- 110 Sichuan Special
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- 112 One day in China
- 113 New Destinations Special
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Bound Volume #19

- 115 Southeast Gansu
- 116 Shanghai Special
- 117 Henan Special
- 118 Tibet Special
- 119 Southwestern Silk Road (I)
- 120 Southwestern Silk Road (II)

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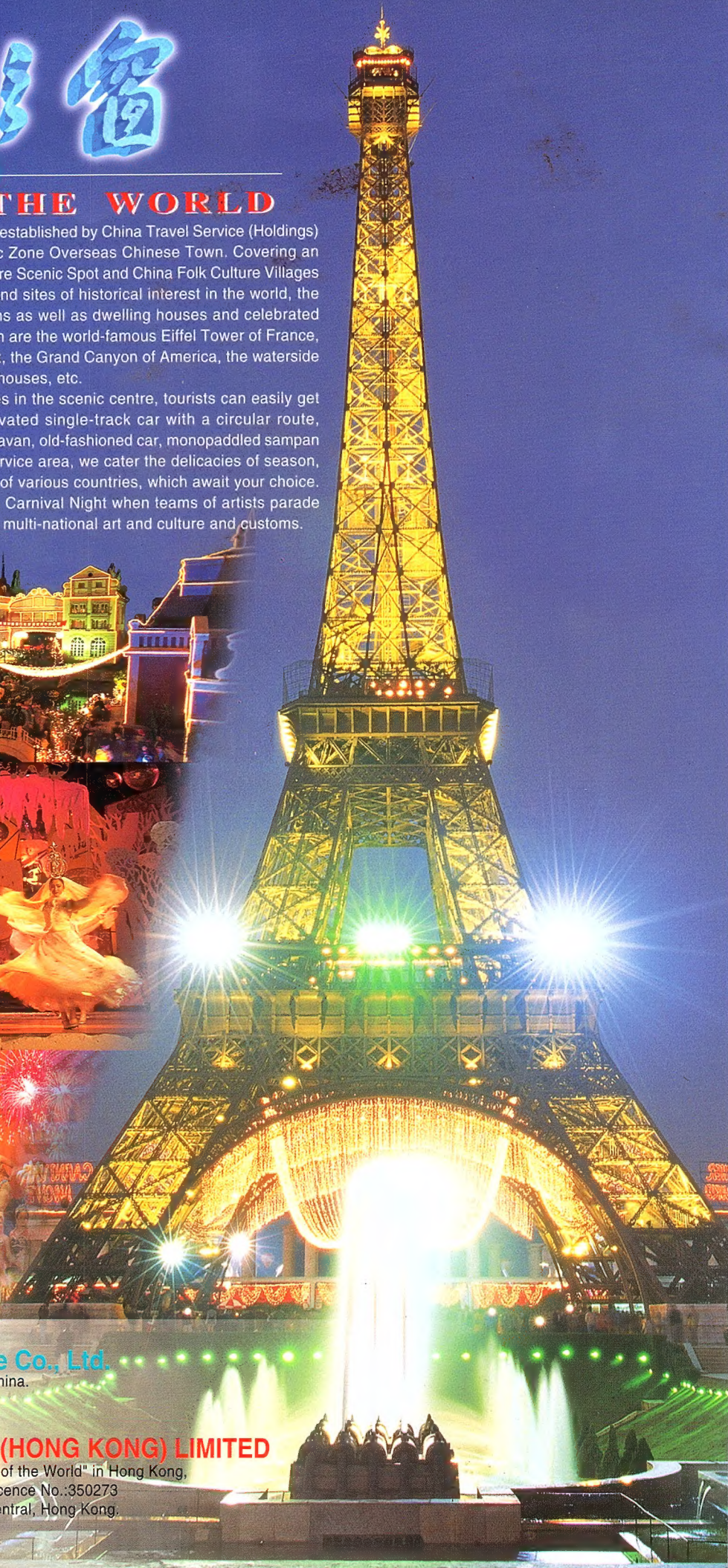


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